

The Haurakian 2024



Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School



Autographs

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Message from Mr Hart



As we close the chapter on another school year, we reflect on our growth, resilience, and collective determination to thrive and reach our true potential.

Our year began with a pōwhiri for new students and staff—a fitting welcome that set the tone for the year ahead. From there, the year unfolded with highlights both inside and outside the classroom. Many unforgettable events define our school spirit, and they are celebrated in this edition of The Haurakian.

One such event was our Matariki Celebration, where our collective spirit brought the community together in the spirit of Manaakitanga. It was a true highlight that we hope to build upon next year.

The rollout of our refreshed uniform began this year and will continue into 2025. By 2026, most students will wear it.

Year 12 and 13 students now have a senior uniform, with Year 13 receiving a distinctive pin. For the first time, we also presented graduation folios at the Leavers' Dinner.

The Ka Ora Ka Ako, Healthy Lunches programme we launched in partnership with PEL Group was a great success. While provisions will change for 2025, we've joined the new centralised programme to ensure young minds are nourished.

Our early adoption of a phone ban aligned well with the government's mandate. With good compliance, we've seen increased activity at break times and stronger interpersonal connections.

The Active As programme has been a great addition, offering activities during Year 9 classes, after school, and at lunchtimes. With facilities like exercise equipment, a frisbee golf course, and basketball hoops, it has become a real highlight.

Challenges, including implementing Level 1 NCEA, were met with determination to support our taiohi (young people). The resilience of staff, students, and whānau has been inspiring.

Our village—kaiako, kaimahi, parents, whānau, and friends—remains the backbone of our success. Thanks also go to the school board for their strategic guidance.

To our student leaders, thank you for your invaluable contributions. Your leadership has left a legacy that will be felt for years to come.

For those leaving Thames High School, carry forward the lessons learned, friendships formed, and our values. May you look back fondly and pursue your ambitions while contributing positively to your communities.

Whether you're reading this edition of The Haurakian as the year ends or looking back in the future, may it remind you of the shared experiences and memories that make Thames High School a place to cherish.

Ngā Manaakitanga
Michael Hart



2024 Pōwhiri

Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke · 17h ·

On Friday 2 February Thames High School officially welcomed new staff and students starting in 2024. It was so great to see all the bright-eyed taiohi ready to take on new challenges and to learn a bunch, looking excited about what 2024 at kura has in store for them. Please enjoy some photos of all the sweet moments of connection and celebration captured.



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke · 3m ·

What a start to Term 1 2024 at Thames High School!

We're thrilled to kick off the year with a bang – Thames High School has officially launched our Ka ora, Ka Ako, or Healthy School Lunches Programme for 2024! Since late October, our team has been working tirelessly to make this initiative a reality, and we are overjoyed to witness our taiohi enjoying their free lunches and snacks.

Our ultimate goal? Achieving a 100% uptake for free lunches, creating a positive impact in the lives of our taiohi and their families. While we recognize that many families already provide fantastic lunches, we hope this programme eases the burden and expense of providing lunches in 2024.

And if that wasn't exciting enough, it's fantastic to welcome so many new faces and see the new uniforms being worn with pride! Here are some heartwarming photos capturing the fun and delicious food enjoyed during our first few days back at kura.

Let's make 2024 a year of nourishment, growth, and togetherness!

#ThamesHighHealthyLunches #KaOraKaAko #NewBeginnings #SchoolPride



Ka ora, ka ako

New look and nourishment for students

By DAVIDA HIKATANGATA

Moving with new initiatives is something Thames High School has embraced this year with the introduction of free school lunches and new uniforms.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako, or Healthy School Lunches Programme, was a Ministry of Education programme that had become available to all Thames High School students at the start of 2024.

Thames High School principal Michael Hart told *The Profile* the school had been fortunate to be eligible for the programme.

Kaiaua company Pel Group Ltd stepped up to the plate as the new Ka Ora, Ka Ako provider for the school, tasked with preparing lunches to feed 420 students every day.

Mr Hart said students received morning tea and lunch, with Pel Group prepared to adapt their menu based on what "hits the mark" and what doesn't.

Wraps, sandwiches, burritos and cheeseburgers had been some of the items so far.

A recent survey conducted by the school showed 25 per cent of young people hadn't eaten as regularly as expected, Mr Hart said.

"We know anecdotally that there is a need, and based on the uptake it has certainly been well appreciated."

The lunches had been a real benefit and helped with financial stress for families, Mr Hart said.

Better well being, enjoyment



Year 9 students enjoy Ka Ora, Ka Ako lunch in their new uniform, left, Exodus, Tyson and Tyler.

Photos: SUPPLIED

to school, regular attendance and better concentration were other benefits the school expected to see, Mr Hart said.

"That's the ultimate aim - to have healthy kids who are able to engage in positive learning."

Head students Cassandra Duthie and Koen Liddell said the lunches meant students did not have to worry about food.

People eating more, getting food into their system and having increased energy levels had been the main changes the students said

they could see.

Meanwhile, another change for the school this year had been the introduction of new uniforms, with a roll out transition planned to take place across a three-year period.

A 2021 school survey made it clear the community thought there was an opportunity to refresh the uniform, Mr Hart said.

Year 9s kicked off 2024 in their new gear, with other year groups to shift to the new uniform over time. The school was pleased to

have a comfortable, good quality uniform at a good price point, Mr Hart said.

"Value for money for a durable uniform was a really important part of our process," Mr Hart said.

However, head students Cassandra and Koen said there had been some confusion for students unsure about which tops they needed, and found it hard to tell the year 12s and 13s apart anymore as they now had the same tops.

Mr Hart said there had been some miscommunication, but that

had all been resolved after the first week or so.

"Those are just everyday teething things when you're experiencing a new thing."

Before the update, the senior tops were worn by year 13s, but now included the year 12s because both groups were senior students, Mr Hart said.

"And we like to identify them as such."

The school had been looking at an identification system for the year 13 uniform to distinguish between the year levels, but it was still a work in progress.

Mr Hart said he had heard lots of comments from his community and the students enjoying wearing the uniform.

"They can see it making a big impact out there."

One thing the school made sure of was that the uniform was non-gender specific, with different styles of shorts and fitted and straight leg trousers.

"So effectively, whether you call it a masculine or feminine traditional fit, whichever you wear, it doesn't matter," Mr Hart said.

Refreshed health and physical education t-shirts had been emblazoned with the school tohu, a design that reflected the school's whenua (land), Mr Hart said.

"It really makes a big impact and looks really, really smart."

"We're really hoping that 2024 is going to be the great year that it has started off being," Mr Hart said.

Student Leaders 2024

CASSANDRA DUTHIE



**MANUARATAKI
-A-KURA /
HEAD
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

As a Head Student, it is my responsibility to be a dependable source of support for anyone in need and to collaborate with my fellow Student Leaders to ensure that our school benefits from a positive influence.

The aspect of school that I love the most is participating in sport and the meaningful relationships that come with them. It is a great joy to work together with others and proudly represent our school while engaging in the sport that I am passionate about.

Once I complete my education at Thames High School, my aspirations are to explore both New Zealand and other countries. I have my sights set on attending the New Zealand School of Tourism, where I aim to obtain a Diploma in Tourism and Management. This will not only give me the opportunity to travel and see the world, but also to meet new people and gain insights into various cultures.

KOEN LIDDELL



**MANUARATAKI
-A-KURA /
HEAD
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Hi, I'm Koen, I am grateful to be one of your Head Students for 2024.

I'll be leading the Student Leader team this year along with (fellow Head Student Leader) Cassandra. You will see me around at all of the major school events this year.

School, to me, is about social interaction; developing long lasting friendships and making life long memories.

I'm very enthusiastic about sport, I love to play Rugby and I am part of the First XV. When I'm not at school I love to spend my time out in nature doing things like tramping, camping and swimming. I also enjoy beating my friends at board games.

Once I leave school I plan to travel over the whole of New Zealand (whilst) working in the tourism industry.

HARRIS ELLIOT-HOGG



**MANUKURA MĀORI /
MĀORI
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Kia Ora, Ko Harris Elliot-Hogg toku ingoa. I am grateful to be one of your Manukura Māori for 2024.

My role as Manukura covers things like Kapa Haka, Te Reo Māori and all things Te Ao Māori. I will be involved in many other things to do with the Māori department of our kura.

My focus in my role this year is to encourage more boys/people to join Rōpu Kapa Haka so we can perform competitively this year and also to make sure important events like Matariki and Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori [are celebrated]. I'm also involved in the occasional Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu so if you have any concerns you would like me to bring up, don't be afraid to ask or flick me a quick email.

I enjoy mountain biking, gaming and I have played guitar for almost 8 years. I am also a first degree black belt in Kiado Ryu Martial Art which I have been doing for over a decade including helping to teach newer members.

My dream would be to have a successful career in music and touring the world with my band. You'll most likely find me in the music department or in our Whareora.

WAIMAARIE REYNOLDS-KOKIRI



**MANUKURA MĀORI /
MĀORI
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Kia ora! Ko Waimarie toku ingoa.

I am one of your Manukura Māori for 2024 I am open to any whakaaro, I am here to awhi our rangatahi and to give a helping hand too our Kalako when I am needed.

I want to expand our rangatahi's knowledge in Te Ao Māori and guide them to become future Manukura.

I have a deep desire for Kapa Haka. I have been passionate about Kapa Haka since I started at Kohanga. I love anything that brings good vibes, positive energy, or a good outcome.

I'm not absolutely sure about what my future is going to look like, but I know that I certainly want to face as many challenges and opportunities that I could possibly have and either learn from them or build up to see what God has planned for me.

ABBY GREENWOOD



**MANUARATAKI
-A-KURA /
DEPUTY
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

I have been chosen for the role of Deputy Head Student and elected to be on the school Board as Student Representative.

As a Student Leader I will work alongside Hunter and our other leaders to create a positive environment here at school.

My responsibilities include representing Thames High School (on official occasions), organising events for the student body, and supporting the other leaders throughout the year.

Something I love about school is getting to see my friends every day while constantly learning. I love how school brings us a bunch of opportunities and experiences including meeting new people, sporting events, academic opportunities, and much more.

After school, I aspire to go to University to study law.

At some stage, I also want to travel and see the world.

HUNTER GROWDEN



**MANUARATAKI
-A-KURA /
DEPUTY
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Kia ora, My name is Hunter Growden.

This year I have been chosen to take on the role as a Deputy Student Leader at Thames High School.

As a student leader, I will be working closely with (fellow Deputy Leader), Abby, and our other student leaders to create a positive school environment and ensure that the school's mission and values are upheld.

My responsibilities include organising events, representing the student body, and supporting the Head Students in their duties.

This year I aspire to exceed expectations and to continue chasing the rugby dream, my passion alongside becoming a rugby player is to also become a personal trainer or physiotherapist/coach for professional sports teams.

MAIA HARRISON



**KAIARATAKI
AKORANGA /
ACADEMIC
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Academics and doing well in school have always been important to me and I want to share my passion with other students at Thames High School.

I want to encourage, support, and present opportunities to students who are seeking them out or want help. Some events I plan to run this year are a science fair and a speech competition. We are also offering tutoring and study groups to help students learn how to study correctly and to help students who are struggling or want extra guidance with their school work in general.

What I like about Thames High School is that the student body is always supportive and celebrates each other's academic achievements.

[I intend on studying Biomedicine at] University of Auckland to become a neurologist. Remember to balance out your studies with other things in your life, such as your friends, family, and most importantly, yourself - there is more to high school than study!

KEIRA HALL



**KAIARATAKI
TAIAO-A-KURA /
ENVIRONMENT
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Kia Ora I'm Keira, Environment Student Leader for 2024.

My job is to make sure students are keeping Thames High School and the environment clean and green while still having fun. Feel free to come talk to me about anything "enviro" and anything else.

Some of my hobbies are skiing, sailing, scouting (last year I travelled to Korea to attend a world wide scouting jubilee) and gaming of course, so there's lots more to talk about with me.

After high school I am hoping to study science at Auckland University of Technology and (to later) work in a chemistry lab and explore new medicine to better the world.

Be a tidy kiwi!

CONNOR LYON



**KAIARATAKI
HAUWHARE /
HOUSE
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

My role at Thames High School 2024 is House Student Leader. The main part of this role is to build house spirit and (to encourage) friendly competition between the school houses.

As house leader I also get to promote and organise Spirit Week 2024 and other cool sporting days like Swimming Sports and House Activities Day with heaps of house points up for grabs.

What I love about school is having good times with good friends everyday, learning heaps about different subjects, going on school camps and the school team sports.

Like a lot of people my age I am not too sure what life after school has in store for me but I am glad I will be properly equipped with a good education and can do anything I put my mind to.

CAITLIN JONES



**KAIARATAKI
TAIAO-A-KURA /
ENVIRONMENT
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

This year I have taken on the role of Environmental Student Leader.

As Environmental Leader, it is my responsibility to develop projects that promote sustainability, increase environmental awareness, and make the school greener and more eco-friendly. In addition to this, I will collaborate with the other Student Leaders and support them as needed.

An aspect at the school that I really enjoy is playing sports and being introduced to the people who come with it. I'm also a part of 37 Squadron (Thames Air Training Corps) and I love going away on base every so often.

My future aspirations are to study Law at Waikato University's Tauranga campus.

IZZY FITZSIMMONS



**KAIARATAKI
TIKANGA-Ā-IWI /
ARTS & CULTURE
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Kia ora, I'm Izzy Fitzsimmons and this year I, along with TJ Judd, will be your Arts & Culture Student Leaders.

This year TJ and I will be responsible for organising and running some of our schools biggest events such as the International Food Festival, our school's talent show and we're also going to work alongside our Manukura to help with Matariki and the Hauraki Festival.

One of the main areas I will be working in this year is our amazing music department. I hope to bring more attention to performances and help take a few groups to the national Rockquest competition.

In my own time I enjoy dancing which I have done for over 12 years at this point. I also love to sing and play bass in our band where we have performed at live events such the annual Vegefest in Waihi and some formal events. In the future I hope to do something in science and/or performing arts.

KAYLA SPEED



**KAIARATAKI
HAUORANGA /
WELFARE
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Hey my name is Kayla Speed, I am one of the Welfare Student Leaders for 2024.

My responsibilities as a welfare leader is to promote well-being within the school as well as making sure that everyone belongs and has a purpose. I want to offer support to the students at Thames High School and be there for them when they need it.

I will be helping with the running of events like Pink Shirt Day, Daffodil Day, Mental Health Awareness Week, Gumboot Friday and being involved in the EARS group.

I am really grateful to have been given this opportunity and I can not wait to see what the year has in store for us.

I am a person that loves doing many things, yet my favourites are dancing and volunteering up at Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp. I am a person that loves helping others as well as taking on a good challenge along the way.

My aspiration for the future is (to become) a paediatrician, as my dream is to help many children and to be able to make a difference in people's lives.

NIA WILSON



**KAIARATAKI
HĀKINAKINA /
SPORT
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

My role this year is one of your Sport Student Leaders. My responsibility is to work with (fellow Sport Student Leader), Austin, as well as Mrs Green and Tess Walsh to make sport events happen and enjoyable for everyone at school. We hope to get everyone involved, competitive or not. I hope to run more social sports games on days like Gumboot Friday and Pink Shirt Day etc.

I have lots of interests, my main one would be netball. I love the social aspect of the sport and of course the competitiveness. I also love swimming and just hanging out on the beach with my family and friends.

My aspirations are to be a nurse when I leave Thames High School, I love the thought of being able to help people when they need it. With my nursing degree I hope to travel and work in different hospitals and medical centres all over the world.

TJ JUDD



**KAIARATAKI
TIKANGA-Ā-IWI /
ARTS & CULTURE
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

O'day, I'm TJ, and this year the talented Izzy and I are your Arts & Culture Student Leaders.

Izzy and I will be organising and running some of our school's biggest events that show the diverse cultures that our school has, such as the International Food Festival, the school Talent Show, working with Manukura for Matariki, and a few new things!

This year, I'm hoping to focus on the drama department and showcase all the amazing opportunities it holds, from Troupe to Cirque to Drama overall.

I want to be able to utilise my abilities and get more interest in those courses. That being said, Izzy and I will be working together to show everyone what the art department can do as well.

In my own time, I enjoy surfing, mountain biking, and acting. I've loved skiing since I was 3, and I love it to this day.

After school, I'm looking at volunteering for Saint John's for a year to get some real-life skills, then applying to the Air Force in 2026.

ORA WIKI



**KAIARATAKI
HAUWHARE /
HOUSE
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

Kia ora Ko Ora ahau,

I will be helping to organise school events such as the Swimming Sports, House Activities Day and Spirit Week, as well as to brainstorm new events for you to enjoy. I ask for your genuine feedback, honesty and input about these events. You can always come to us for help, advice or just to talk.

One of the many things I love is to help people whether it's academically, socially, mentally or sports-wise along with learning languages, reading, sports especially netball, baking and being in bed for much too long.

I have had many thoughts and conversations about my future. Maybe architecture, interior design or possibly a nurse, doctor maybe even an engineer but one thing that has never left my thoughts is the Navy. With the Navy all these careers are possible along with the opportunity to become an officer and eventually lieutenant, commander etc etc. Always keep your options open, anything can change and you definitely will over the years and so will I. So I don't have an exact idea but I think I know where I am going.

AUSTIN COURT



**KAIARATAKI
HĀKINAKINA /
SPORT
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

My name is Austin and along side fellow Sport Leader, Nia Wilson, I have the role of being the one of the Sport Leaders for 2024.

Our responsibilities this year are to work as a team and host sporting events throughout the year. Together we hope to run inter-house tournaments and give more opportunities for those people who want to play sport.

From the depths of the ocean to the peaks of the mountains, I have a personal passion for sport and outdoor activities.

My goal a Kaiarataki Hākinakina this year is to make sport more enjoyable for everyone in school.

PAVELYN ROUS



**KAIARATAKI
HAUORANGA /
WELFARE
STUDENT LEADER
2024**

My name is Pavelyn Rous and I am a Welfare Student Leader for 2024.

My role is to promote the importance of well-being at Thames High School and to help create an environment where everyone feels comfortable and valued in our school.

This year I will be running events such as Pink Shirt Day and Mental Health Awareness Week. These are very important events to me because I hope help make a space that does not stigmatise mental illness so we become more inclusive of everyone.

I love getting lost in a good book and I sometimes dabble in writing during my pastime. In the future I hope to pursue a career in clinical psychology where I aim to get a PhD and to have the chance to make a difference in the mental health system in New Zealand.



Ka ora, ka ako

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And if that wasn't exciting enough, it's fantastic to welcome so many new faces and see the new uniforms being worn with pride! 🌟 Here are some heartwarming photos capturing the fun and delicious food enjoyed during our first few days back at kura.

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#WeGrowTogetherToAchieveOnesTruePotential



New look and nourishment for students

By DAVIDGA HIKATANGATA

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A recent survey conducted by the school showed 25 per cent of young people hadn't eaten as regularly as expected, Mr Hart said.

"We know anecdotally that there is a need, and based on the uptake it has certainly been well appreciated."

The lunches had been a real benefit and helped with financial stress for families, Mr Hart said.

Better well being, engagement



Year 9 students enjoy Ka Ora, Ka Ako lunch in their new uniform, left, Exodus, Tyson and Tyler.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

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Head students Cassandra Duthie and Koen Liddell said the lunches meant students did not have to worry about food.

People eating more, getting food into their system and having increased energy levels had been the main changes the students said

they could see.

Meanwhile, another change for the school this year had been the introduction of new uniforms, with a roll out transition planned to take place across a three-year period.

A 2021 school survey made it clear the community thought there was an opportunity to refresh the uniform, Mr Hart said.

Year 9s kicked off 2024 in their new gear, with other year groups to shift to the new uniform over time. The school was pleased to

have a comfortable, good quality uniform at a good price point, Mr Hart said.

"Value for money for a durable uniform was a really important part of our process," Mr Hart said.

However, head students Cassandra and Koen said there had been some confusion for students unsure about which tops they needed, and found it hard to tell the year 12s and 13s apart anymore as they now had the same tops.

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"It really makes a big impact and looks really, really smart."

"We're really hoping that 2024 is going to be the great year that it has started off being," Mr Hart said.

ANZAC Dawn Parade



"It is a great honour to speak and stand here today on behalf of Thames High School to commemorate the many male and female veterans, Māori Battalions and animals, who fought and defended our country and gave their lives to protect ours and the future ones to come. We reflect on the ageless values of duty, honour, and comradeship that define us.

The ANZAC heritage has been written into the fabric of our identity throughout history, reminding us of how much we owe to those who fought for our freedoms selflessly. As we stand here today, let us honour their memory and settle to uphold the principles for which they fought, ensuring that the candle of remembrance burns brightly for future generations.

In the First World War, over one hundred and twenty thousand New Zealand troops enlisted, around one hundred thousand served overseas, and nearly one in five who served abroad did not return. The eight thousand five hundred-strong New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) was quickly developed under the command of Alexander Godley, a British commander on loan in New Zealand.

On October 16, 1914, the NZEF left New Zealand as the largest group of men (and horses) to leave at once. The ten troopships travelled over the Tasman to join the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Together, they set sail across the Indian Ocean towards France, where they would join the British Expeditionary Force that had been dispatched. Following the main body, a Māori contingent served as garrison troops in Malta and Gallipoli. There were two thousand, two hundred and twenty-seven Māori who served in the NZEF throughout the conflict.

The 28th Māori Battalion was at times attached to each of the Division's three brigades. A lieutenant general commanded each battalion. The Māori Battalion usually contained 700-750 men, divided into five units.

The Māori Battalion were excellent problem solvers, engineers, home defenders, artillery and on the front line. The Battalion's four rifle companies were organised on a tribal basis, A, B, C, and D.

B Company consisted of men from Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, Taupō, and the Thames-Coromandel areas.

Traditionally, haka was a customary way to welcome, celebrate, entertain, and challenge visiting tribes, but it also served to strengthen warriors as they headed into battle. It was a show of physical expertise but also an embodiment of cultural pride, strength, and unity.

During World War 2 almost three thousand six hundred men served overseas with the Māori Battalion between 1940 and 1945. Of these, 649 were killed in action or died on active service, more than 10% of the six thousand and sixty-eight New Zealanders who lost their lives serving with NZEF were in the Middle East and Europe.

Between 1941 and 1945, New Zealand's 28th Māori Battalion forged an outstanding reputation on the battlefields of Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy.

By 1945, the 28 Māori Battalion had become one of New Zealand's most celebrated and decorated units. But Māori contributed to the war effort in many different ways, at home and overseas. The 28th Māori Battalion established a formidable reputation as one of New Zealand's finest fighting forces. Allegedly Erwin Rommel Commander of all Axis forces in North Africa had the greatest respect for the bravery and courage of the 28th Māori Battalion.

So let us not forget all the brave New Zealanders who protected what we have today and what we have for the future.

Lest we forget

Ake! Ake! Kia Kaha E!


Forever and forever, be strong.

Thank you. "

Cassandra Duthie's Speech
Head Student







Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke · 6 days ago ·

Today, we gathered in Thames to honour the ANZAC spirit, and it was heartening to witness Thames High School students embodying that legacy in various roles. From the Cadets to St. John's, they stood united, paying homage to our heroes. Kudos to Head Students Cassandra Duthie and Koen Liddell for their stirring speeches, and to Joe Hayward, representing both student body and Cadets, for lowering the flag with solemn reverence. On this poignant morning, we remember and salute all who served. Lest we forget. [#anzacday2024](#)



House Activities



Celebrating Achievements: Thames High School House Activities Day/Athletics 2024

Thursday 22 February marked a day of spirited competition as our students participated in the House Activities Day/Athletics event. Amidst cheers and a heated Pūkana game, our talented athletes showcased their skills, leaving an indelible mark on the record books.

Among the standout performances of the day, two remarkable achievements stand out:

Ellie Johnson Breaks Intermediate Girls Triple Jump Record: With a breathtaking leap of 9.82 meters, Ellie Johnson soared past the previous record set by R Juby in 2021, establishing herself as the new record holder and inspiring us all with her incredible athleticism and determination.

Isayah Boyd Sets New Intermediate Boys High Jump Record: Isayah Boyd's remarkable performance saw him scale new heights, quite literally, as he cleared an impressive 1.82 meters in the High Jump event. Surpassing the previous record held by C Veal since 2019, Isayah's achievement is a testament to his hard work, talent, and dedication to his sport.

We couldn't be prouder of Ellie, Isayah, and all our athletes who competed with passion and sportsmanship.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the staff, and volunteers who contributed to the success of the day. A special mention to our students who recorded the day via drone and shared some amazing bird's eye view images! Your dedication and enthusiasm make moments like these possible, and we're grateful for your unwavering support.

As we reflect on the incredible achievements of House Activities Day/Athletics 2024, let's continue to celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship, Manaakitanga and Whakamana that define our school community.

We're thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our Athletic age group champions for 2024! Their dedication, hard work, and unwavering determination have truly shone through.

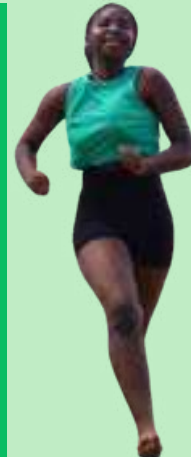
Blog Post



Rudman



Adams



Dorrington



Hoult



Beat Boxing



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

March 21 · 🌐

Today was an unforgettable day in the Music Department! Thanks to [Creative Waikato](#), we had the privilege of hosting Beatboxing champion and Thames High School alumni, Jj Pakinga (aka Genetic), along with the exceptionally talented Beau Monga. They shared their mesmerizing skills with our students, leaving everyone in awe. Our senior guitar group had the opportunity to experiment with looping, immersing themselves in the world of music alongside these two phenomenal artists. The energy in the room was electric, and the talent on display was simply mind-blowing! Tomorrow, Jj and Beau will be visiting Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga (also Jj's old school). If you want to witness their magic first-hand, be sure to drop by and experience the brilliance for yourself.

Massive thanks to Jj Pakinga and Beau Monga for inspiring us with their incredible talents! 🎵

🎸 #CreativeWaikato #MusicalTalent



The Harp Visit



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke · April 9 at 2:15 PM · 🌐

The Music Department hit the jackpot once more with an enchanting pedal harp presentation by Canadian harpist Josh Layne, as part of a project spearheaded by local enthusiast Anna Dunwoodie to introduce harps into schools, supported by TCDC's Creative Communities Scheme.

Josh paid a visit on Monday morning, engaging with our senior Music students and Year 10 newcomers, delving into the instrument's history, technology, and the beautiful melodies it produces. There were plenty of beaming smiles from the brave students who dared to try their hand at playing!



Creative Writing

Statement of intent:

I am going to write a creative piece from the perspective of a guard inside Shawshank prison during the time that the film The Shawshank Redemption was set (approx 1947-1970). The character narrating the piece is not a named character in the film but a background character observing from further away. He is referred to as Eddie by his wife Elsie. This piece is meant as a contrasting point of view and is captured in short snippets at different times of day.

Uniform? Grey. Walls? Grey. Hair? Greyer than yesterday. I traipse up to the bright green front door of our cottage. Elsie likes it that way. She keeps her life full of colour. I don't know what I'd do without her. "Eddie!" Her radiant smile alleviates all stress from the shift before. I smell the rich, seasoned steam from the kitchen. Home. At dinner I try to keep conversation away from Shawshank. Elsie tells me of her improved flower garden and my spirits slowly rise higher.

It takes me a while to get to sleep. Every creak in the rafters jolts me awake until suddenly the sky has begun to lighten.

Uniform? Grey. Air? Cold. I trudge to the road side and await the bus. Fellow guards enlarge my vision as they too leave the warmth of their homes. The bus rattles along as if to remind us of our positions. It is not only the convicts that are prisoners to Shawshank. I am swapped in at Breakfast. My post is near a table of whispering inmates. Eavesdropping makes life here more bearable. "Did ye hear?" a hunched, older man leans into his peers. "That library bloke is goin round askin fer a rope" His thick accent had me leaning forward slightly to make out his words. "Always was an oddball that one. My bet he won't last till mornin" I knew exactly who he was talking about. Dufresne. He had helped me handle funds when Elsie's father had passed. The way he held himself made you think he wasn't a prisoner at all. It was as if he was just going about his day at work like any old London Banker. The Scotsman noticed me and stopped talking.

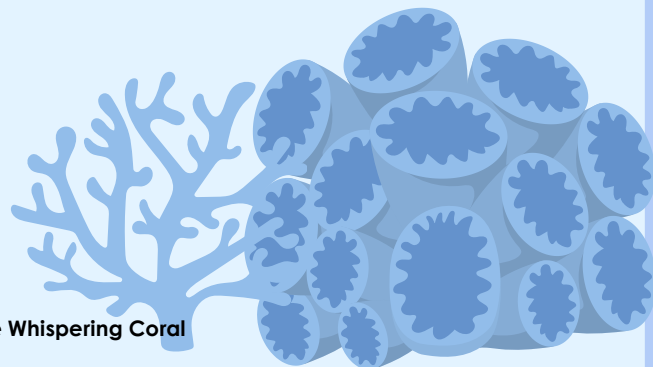
Mind? Blank. Bell? Loud.

The following day my thoughts linger with the Dufresne boy, summoned to the yard. I find myself amongst a sea of my same uniform. A panicked looking senior guard stood before us. "A prisoner has escaped!" I feel my eyes widen. In all my years here I have never seen an escape. Not a successful one anyway. Men run in all directions as our senior shouts orders. I follow a group out to... the creek where the sewage is let out. Frantically I follow the masses down the bank for what feels like an hour of searching. What exactly for? I'm not certain. Elsie won't be happy with the smell.

Izzy Fitzsimmons (Year 12)



The Whispering Coral



Gazing out the window, my whānau bustling around me, I felt a weird mix of excitement and nerves. Our old house, sitting right on the edge of the reef, seemed to buzz with energy. The ocean was wilder than usual, its waves crashing against the shore like they were trying to tell us something. The morning light peeked through the window, making everything look a bit magical. Today was different. We were finally going to explore the far side of the reef, a place that everyone talked about but no one had seen up close. My heart was pounding as I got ready, wondering what we would find out there.

Bordering the old house was the ancient reef, like a giant playground full of coral and fish. It felt alive, whispering secrets of the ocean. As we walked out, the water was crystal clear, and I could see colourful fish darting around the coral. Each step made me feel more connected to the sea. The reef started to change as we went further. The familiar corals turned into strange shapes, tall and shadowy under the water. The whispers got louder, like the reef was trying to tell us something important. My whānau moved ahead, their voices mixing with the sounds of the waves, but I stayed back, mesmerised by the scene. A school of silver fish swam by, shining in the sunlight, leading me deeper into the reef's mysteries.

Suddenly, the whispers turned into a loud, urgent noise. I looked back and saw the house far away, a tiny dot against the horizon, and panic rose inside me. My whānau was far ahead, and I felt alone. I started to run, my feet slipping on the wet coral. The ocean seemed to rise and fall around me, like it had a mind of its own. Just as I caught up, a huge wave crashed over us, knocking me off my feet. I was underwater, surrounded by swirling blue and green. Even in the chaos, I felt a strange calm, like the reef was holding me. I came up, gasping for air, and saw my whānau's worried faces. As the wave pulled back, it left us standing there, amazed by the power and beauty of the ocean. We knew we were part of something much bigger, and that the reef had its own story to tell.

Blaze Houghton (Year 10)



Drama

04 THE VALLEY PROFILE, April 24, 2024

www.valleypromie.co.nz

Education

The scoop on the Thames High Troupe

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Showing their skills beyond the classroom is something a group of Thames High School drama students are embracing - but it's not just for the applause.

The Thames High Troupe have been honing their artistry in the community by taking on paid professional event work, such as at the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo and Katikati Jazz Street Party.

Thames High School drama teacher and troupe leader Luke Devery said the troupe was a self-funded extra curricular programme aimed at putting the kids out in front of the wider community. The point was to get them out there working professionally, liaising with clients and fulfilling briefs, he said.

"They see themselves as a valuable commodity because they're being hired, and then re-hired."

The troupe aims to do four gigs a year, three paid and one for charity. So far they've had two high profile gigs and "absolutely nailed it".

"It's really heartening to see the event co-ordinators get excited about the work that these young people are doing," Luke said.

Things were expected to be a little quieter for the troupe over the next few terms, he said.

However, the community will have a chance to witness something soon that the group and senior drama department have



Thames High Troupe out in action at the Paeroa Highland Games and Katikati Jazz Street Party.

Photos: SUPPLIED

been working on. "Something exciting is coming at the end of term two," Luke said. Student leader for culture and arts and troupe member TJ Judd was at the forefront of making the group's gigs come together.

"Without [TJ], this probably wouldn't be going forward," Luke said. "He's not just a mouthpiece, he's a really strong advocate of the

arts at Thames High."

TJ told *The Profile* he enjoyed being in the troupe, and even though there was a lot of set up work, it was still "a heck of a lot of fun". Seeing all the smiling faces when he performed was a highlight, he said.

"They don't know who we are, but it's just nice to bring a sense of community involvement and

share a little bit of happiness."

Trying to keep up the same level of energy throughout a long gig was a challenge, TJ said.

Even though characters have different energy, and you change up between them, you still have to keep that focus and ability to remain in character, instead of slouching around, doing nothing."

The group's debriefs were an

important part of the gig, "as it lets us know what we need to improve on for next time", TJ said.

For students interested in being part of the troupe, TJ said it was definitely a great thing to do.

"Bring along your best smile and your best pair of boots."

DETAILS: To stay up to date with the group, search Thames High Troupe on Facebook.

Drama Trip to Te Pou Theatre



Mātai Whetū Art Trip



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke · March 20 at 1:01 PM ·

👏📸 What an enriching experience for our Year 11 Art and Design classes! They had the privilege of visiting Matai Whetu recently, a stunning marae nestled atop the hill overlooking Kopu. The day was filled with learning about the rich tikanga of the marae, soaking in wisdom shared by Matua Wati, and diligently recording our newfound knowledge and of course lots of sketching! Thank you to everyone involved for making this excursion possible. Here's to more moments of cultural immersion and artistic inspiration! 🌟



Makayla Ladbrook (Year11)



Anja Watling (Year11)



Evelyn Darwall (Year11)



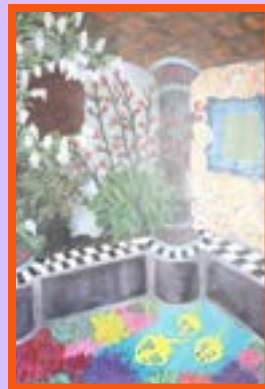
Armani Parata (Year11)



Romie Daraville Rehua (Year11)



Shannara Smook (Year11)



Lorenzo Yamamoto (Year11)



Piper Liddell (Year11)



Lucy Wong (Year11)

Year 13 Camp

On Wednesday 6 March Year 13 went to camp at Tāpapakanga Regional Park for two nights and three days.



In groups of twelve, they participated in multiple activities and were challenged to work together and learn new things about each other.

One of the highlights of the camp was the spider web challenge, a test of agility, coordination, and most importantly, teamwork. Picture this: twelve individuals, each with a unique set of skills and perspectives, manoeuvring through a tangled maze of ropes without making contact or doubling up. It was a feat that demanded creativity, communication, and support for one another.

"It forced us to think creatively and communicate with one another, which helped us grow closer and more comfortable with each other." -Nia Wilson Student Leader

Throughout the camp, we were fed nutritious meals and were well looked after. This experience has led to our Year 13 group becoming closer having built connections with each other and the teachers on a deeper level.



EARS Camp



EARS is a tuakana-teina peer support programme.

This year twenty students volunteered to support student welfare by being available as 'a listening ear' on an as needed basis during morning tea and lunchtimes. Alongside these students we are lucky to have the support of 24-7's Samanda and Linny, as well as Lisa Barnett (Learning Support Co-ordinator)

The training camp was an integral part of the learning around how to be an EARS tuakana. This year the camp was held at Te Mata Lodge where everyone got to know each other better through learning and team-building activities.

These included communication and listening skills, building trust, ethical considerations, cooperative games and problem-solving skills.

Kylie Finch
School Counsellor



Dirty Riding

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga sent a team of riders to the Waikato/ BOP mountain bike trail regional competition at Te Miro MTB park on Thursday 14 March.

Our team made up of part-time riders, non-riders and give-it-a-goers from years 9-12 arrived to some uncertain weather conditions, along with uncertainties about what to expect or how they will go in the unknown of never being in an event like this. Our team made us incredibly proud with top-10 finishes against experienced riders. Their dedication and effort were evident despite the tough conditions and the high caliber of competitors in the field. They are looking forward to the next event and I encourage others to inquire with Tess about joining the team.

Thanks to the whānau who came over to support us, shout out to HydraLink Thames for having our riders back. Our team - Ride hard, Ride smart, Ride Dirty. Ko koe tonu a runga!

Shannon Paki
Mentor Check & Connect



Creative Writing



Beneath the Coral Canopy by Jake Robinson (Year 10)

Peering out the window, my family and I watched as the morning sun painted the ocean in all sorts of dreamy colours. The waves looked like they were dancing, whispering secrets to anyone who cared to listen. Being the oldest kid in the house, I felt this pressure to be all responsible and stuff, like I had to be the one looking out for everyone.

My mum, she kept trying to talk me out of it, saying things like, "You don't have to go, Tama. Our reef needs you here." And yeah, it kinda got to me, you know? Like, leaving behind all that love and comfort wasn't easy. But at the same time, there was this pull, this urge to go out there and see what's beyond our little patch of paradise.

When I got that letter from the marine research institute, offering me this gig as a coral conservationist, I swear my heart skipped a beat. It was like all my dreams were suddenly within reach. And yeah, it was scary as heck, thinking about leaving everything behind and diving into the unknown. But it was also super exciting like I was about to embark on this epic adventure.

So, the stretch of coastline by our old house? It was like the gateway to a whole new world. Saying goodbye to my family wasn't easy, but I knew deep down that I had to do this. As I stepped onto that boat, I felt this mix of nerves and excitement bubbling up inside me. Sure, it was gonna be tough out there, but I was ready to dive in and protect the wonders waiting for me beneath the coral canopy.

As the boat chugged away from the shore, I couldn't help but feel a pang of sadness at leaving behind the familiar sights and sounds of home. The salty breeze tousled my hair, and I took one last look at the coastline disappearing into the distance. But amidst the nostalgia, there was also a sense of anticipation building within me. I was on my way to something greater, something that would define my purpose and shape my future. With each passing wave, I felt more determined than ever to make a difference in the world of marine conservation.

Creative Writing by Lily McCarthy (Year 10)

The kitchen counter is full with used pans, cooking utensils, plates big and small, knives, forks, serving spoons, dropped veggies and little blobs of gravy that spilt out of the mixing bowl. My dog Poppy is sitting and watching with love in her puppy eyes, every once and a while getting thrown a bit of chicken. My Dad has always loved this dog, and absolutely loves cooking.

He's sipping some beer while singing and swaying along to the old music blasting through his little blue speaker. I can hear him humming along to Al Green's "Let's Stay Together" as he slices the juiciest potatoes. He glances up at the beautiful sun which is shining right through our kitchen window, and then back down at his chopping board, up and down and up and down, while moving his head to the beat. He's going to finish our Sunday roast pretty fast tonight. He's wearing his usual attire, a smart Ralph Lauren polo shirt, long black shorts and black ankle socks. His short dark brown hair is covered with his classic worn out straw hat, strings pulled just loose around his neck, the tip of the hat almost touches the roof because he's so tall, with black rimmed Ray

The journey to the marine research institute was long and arduous, but every moment was filled with excitement and wonder. As the boat approached the island where the institute was located, I caught my first glimpse of the coral reefs shimmering beneath the crystal-clear waters. It was a sight to behold, a breathtaking mosaic of colours and life, unlike anything I had ever seen before. My heart swelled with pride and determination as I realised the importance of the work that lay ahead.

Stepping onto the island, I was greeted by a team of passionate scientists and researchers, all dedicated to protecting and preserving our precious coral reefs. It felt like I was part of something bigger than myself, a community united by a common goal. Over the coming days and weeks, I threw myself into my work with unwavering dedication, diving deep into the ocean to study and protect the fragile ecosystems that lay beneath the surface.

With each passing day, I grew more confident in my abilities and more determined to make a positive impact on the world around me. The challenges were many, but so were the rewards. Whether it was rescuing injured sea creatures or conducting groundbreaking research, every moment felt like a step towards a brighter future for our oceans and our planet.

Looking back now, I realise that leaving home was the best decision I ever made. Beneath the coral canopy, I found not only adventure and discovery but also a sense of purpose and belonging that I had never known before. As I continue my journey as a coral conservationist, I know that the wonders of the ocean will always be my home, guiding me forward on my quest to protect and preserve the treasures that lie beneath the waves.

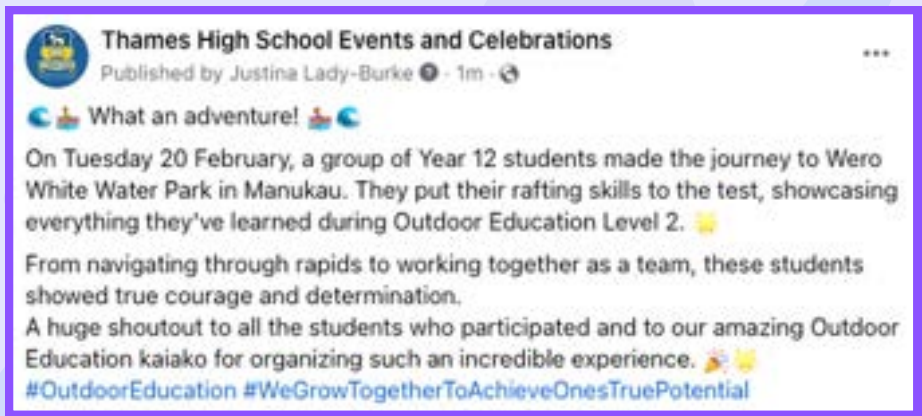


Bans perched on top of it. I look a little further down and see a massive smile filling his face, with a bit of tongue hanging out as a sign of concentration. He's focused but I know he's enjoying himself because he loves cooking and he's pretty fantastic at it.

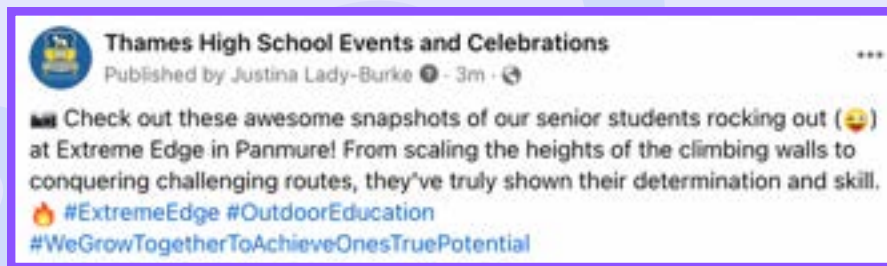
"Can you lay the table for me please?" he says while still humming along to the song. His voice is so deep but so loving. About half an hour later our dinner was ready. We all loved Sunday roasts. All that can be heard is my family laughing and joking and my dad trying to get in on the conversations as he plates up our dinners. He finally sits down with a big sigh of relief after finishing all that cooking.

After dinner is finished we all help to clean up, except for Dad of course. He gets a free pass after doing the actual cooking. By the time we are finished the sun is just setting in the little crack of the mountains. I know this because I can see it reflecting onto Dad's eyes as he shields his face from the glare. We all sit down around him and that's when he says "Same time next week?"

White Water Rafting



Rock Climbing

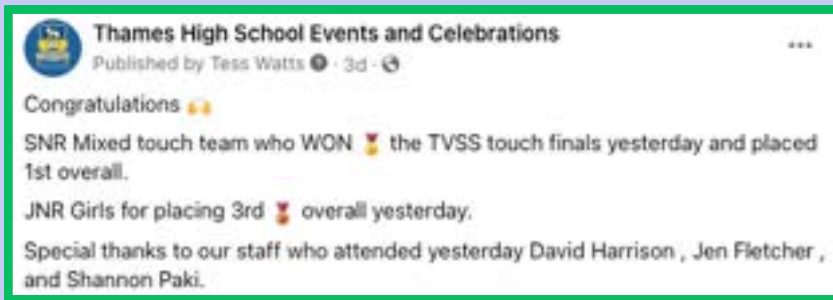


Show Jumping

Congratulations to **Amber and Bella Hunt (Year 11)** and **Neka Woolf (Year 11)** who competed in the Thames Valley Secondary School Showjumping event held at Thames Pony Club and placed second overall. All three girls are experienced riders and competed in three different classes for the event.



Thames Valley Touch



Swimming Sports



Thames Valley Swimming Sports



Thames High School Events and Celebrations
Published by Tess Watts · 1d · 16 February

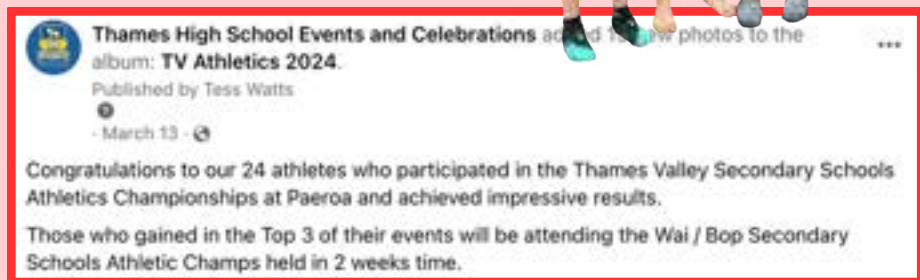
Update:
Results are in .. Congratulations to our swim team . Thames High School were overall winners of 3 age groups and WON 🏆 the Mixed 6 x 25m relay.

JNR Girls Champion - Maia Whitney
JNR Girls Runner up - Nova Sawyer
JNR Boys Champion- Luca Yamamoto
JNR Boys 17th place - Wyatt Doherty
INT Boys 3rd place - Lorenzo Yamamoto
SNR Girls 5th place - Lexi Rohrlach
SNR Boys Champion - Austin Court

Thanks to all the staff at Thames Centennial Pools .

Good luck to our Swimmers 🍀 today competing at the Thames Valley Swimming championships held at Thames Centennial pool.

Thames Valley Athletics



Directions Day BBQ

On Wednesday 20 March staff got to meet the parents and whānau of our new Year 9's. It was a lovely evening of connection and community celebrated with a yummy BBQ hosted by the student leaders.



International Food Festival

Thames High School's annual International Food Festival was a hit once again on Wednesday, June 12!

Our talented students wowed everyone with a delicious spread of dishes from German, Turkish, Canadian, Japanese, and Indian cuisines. The food quality was top-notch, earning rave reviews from all who attended.

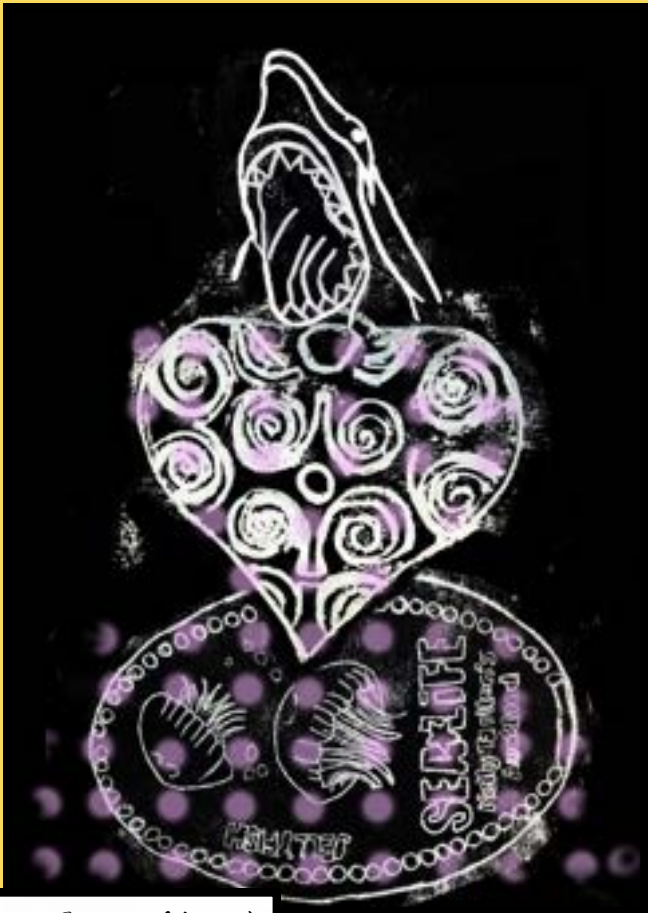
A huge shoutout to Student Leader Izzy Fitzsimmons for organizing the event, International Student Manager Pauline Managh, Food Technology teacher Dianna Phillips, and our amazing whānau volunteers for their support and guidance. Thank you all for making this event so special!



Ben Fitzgerald (Year11)



Alison Tomsett (Year11)



Lexi Dinneen (Year11)



Rose Thomsen (Year11)



Brooklyn Jiang (Year11)



Caedan Dethierry (Year11)



Rose Thomsen (Year11)



Tyla Cullen (Year11)

Creative Writing



Sharne: Character Portrait

As I look around her room, I spot a crib, a TV, piles of nappies, and baby clothes, along with her bed in the corner.

At home, she often raises her voice when I forget to do my chores, but beneath that, she's a truly wonderful mother whom I love dearly.

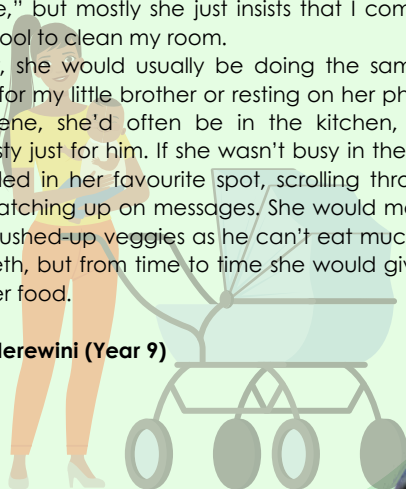
In her spare time, she cares for my little brother, and when she's not busy sleeping, cleaning or at work, she's always there to help me with whatever I need. She enjoys going to the gym or taking spontaneous walks to stay active, and when the mood strikes her, she loves to cook. Despite her occasional frustration, her dedication and love for our family shine through in everything she does.

My mother stands tall at about 6 feet, her presence both commanding and warm. She has beautiful mid-length black hair that she often wears in a high bun, giving her a relaxed look. Her striking brown eyes are framed by a sprinkle of charming freckles that scatter across her face, adding to her unique beauty. Typically dressed in casual, comfy clothes, she exudes an effortless style that perfectly matches her easygoing personality. Whether she's running errands or spending time with family, her comfort and confidence is why everyone loves her, making her the heart of our home.

She frequently encourages me to "go for a walk and get some exercise," but mostly she just insists that I come home right after school to clean my room.

An hour later, she would usually be doing the same thing, making food for my little brother or resting on her phone. It is a familiar scene, she'd often be in the kitchen, cooking something tasty just for him. If she wasn't busy in the kitchen, she'd be settled in her favourite spot, scrolling through her phone and catching up on messages. She would most often cook some crushed-up veggies as he can't eat much due to his lack of teeth, but from time to time she would give him a little bite of her food.

Amiria-Rose Herewini (Year 9)



A Love Called 'Grandma'

Sleeping on Grandma's lap after not seeing each other for years. The wind blows the smell of Lily flowers, instantly reminding me of the memories I have of this house.

The shelves are packed with snacks and toys as she knows that all the grandchildren are going to be here. Laughter filled the air, wrapping us with happiness. We all miss Grandma!

Floral patterned top, long black pants, brown brow-line glasses, diamond-shaped gold earrings. That's my Grandma's style—the classic Cambodian women's style. Normally, her house would be cluttered with things, shelves standing in a queue filled with Buddhism's holy books and souvenirs from faraway places. The fridge with all the grandchildren's childhood drawings hanging on it, another straight-one-line shelf got hung up, along with pictures of the members of the family. Wood carved couches that I know Grandma spends her time cleaning and wiping every single day.

In the corner is a small tidy bed that Grandma can relax on in her free time. Now it gets cleared out, just to make room for snacks and toys. My heart sinks as I take a glance at it, how long it takes her to move all the things away, the corner of her lips still lifted when she looks at me. How is she not tired?

With open arms, she bends down to make a signal for the grandchildren to run toward her and give hugs.

After the greetings, Grandma sits in the centre. Younger grandchildren are having fun by playing with each other, running around, lost in their game. The toys are flying around, food is over the floor, you can tell how messy the living room is. Yet, I can still see the light in Grandma's eyes. She never asks much but always gives, although she is listening to me complain about school, all the stressful things I have in my life. She responds with nothing but tilting her head and gives me the softest look as she listens to it. "Were you being a nice kid?" Grandma asks. She never cares about grades nor my accomplishment, but being nice and can fit in is what matters. "Yes." I reply as I lean toward her for a hug. She knows I'm her "Grandma's girl."

An hour later, everyone's faces are red. The sweat falls down like light rain. We all lie down next to her. "Hah! Seems like all of you are tired, come closer, I'll tell you a story."

She has a soft and sweet voice but in a mocking way. She loves reading, is a good explainer, and is the best storyteller. This elderly woman takes a sip of water, one leg crossed over another, and then she begins unfolding her story of Cambodian childhood memories, the tradition she grew up with. Every word she shares feels like history stitched into our hearts. The room is quiet as she finishes. Younger kids are now drowsy like there is weight on their head that they can't lift them up. Comfortable silence, lowering their head on pillows. Grandma's lap that was once my spot is now shared with my cousin. I watch her gazing at us with a soft smile before I fully close my eyes. Open them again with Grandma's singing. Oh! Her lovely voice.

The sky is getting red, and a big tree on the opposite side is covering the setting sun. It's dinner time! Running, racing, pushing just for the best spot on the dining table. We gather around, squeezing our eyes as we smell the home-cooked food. We carry it with non-stop conversation. The laughter begins to bubble up. By the time we finish, I gaze at Grandma, despite the years and changes, her spirit remains the same—endless giving, endless caring. To her, happiness is when all of us are around in this house, and to us, this is HOME.

Kimju Taing (Year 10)



Caving

On Tuesday 30 April, students in Year 12 undertook black water caving as part of their Level 2 credits in Outdoor Education with the Legendary Black Water Rafting Company at Waitomo Caves.

In this blog post, we highlight the achievement of students who completed the US20133 standard in basic caving skills, earning 2x Level 2 credits. During this activity, students demonstrated both individual and group preparedness in a caving environment. They adhered to safety protocols by wearing appropriate clothing and footwear, identified hazards, navigated through the cave efficiently and safely, and followed principles of cave conservation to minimize human impact.

For many of our students, this experience marked their inaugural journey through a cave; some had initially considered withdrawing. However, every participant persevered, resulting in a rewarding experience for all. Being immersed in a dark, confined space for nearly an hour pushed students beyond their comfort zones, fostering resilience. Conquering such challenges allows students to discover their capabilities, manage their anxieties, and develop a supportive mindset towards their peers. The students learned about their capabilities and supported each other throughout, demonstrating Manaakitanga tikanga / everyone matters.

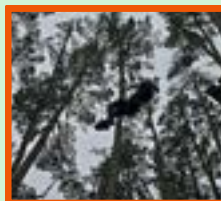
We received commendable feedback from our instructors on the positive attitudes and conduct of our students during their time in the cave.

Thank you to all the staff who helped make this experience memorable.

Blog Post



Zip Lining



Wednesday 23 October: The day went very well. The students completed a number of different high ropes courses and zip lines, each more challenging than the last. To be able to complete the courses, students needed to overcome any anxiety around heights, problem solve to figure out how to complete each course and physically push themselves in some instances as the courses could be physically demanding. The students persevered when up against an obstacle and successfully completed the courses.

Ms Taryn Slee

HoD / Kaiarataki Physical Education

Mānawatia a Matariki

Mānawatia a Matariki! Matariki is a time to remember the past; to celebrate with loved ones; honouring those who have passed and look to the future.

Including Matariki themes in our school curriculum has been a feature since 2022, and this year was no exception, with learning areas having topics in the lead-up to Matariki. It was brilliant that this year we were able to recognise Matariki with a hangi feast, evening performances and fire sculpture.

A big thank you to everyone involved – planning, contributing time, donating, preparing and cooking kai (food), and to whānau and members of our community who were able to join us on Thursday 27 June.

Special thanks to the team of taiohi who dug the hangi pit, and to Wayne Whitney, Charles Corey, Shannon Paki, Triff, John and the Rev'd Brendan Wilkinson who joined from 3.30 am on Thursday to start the fire and prepare the umu (earth oven) to cook our kai.

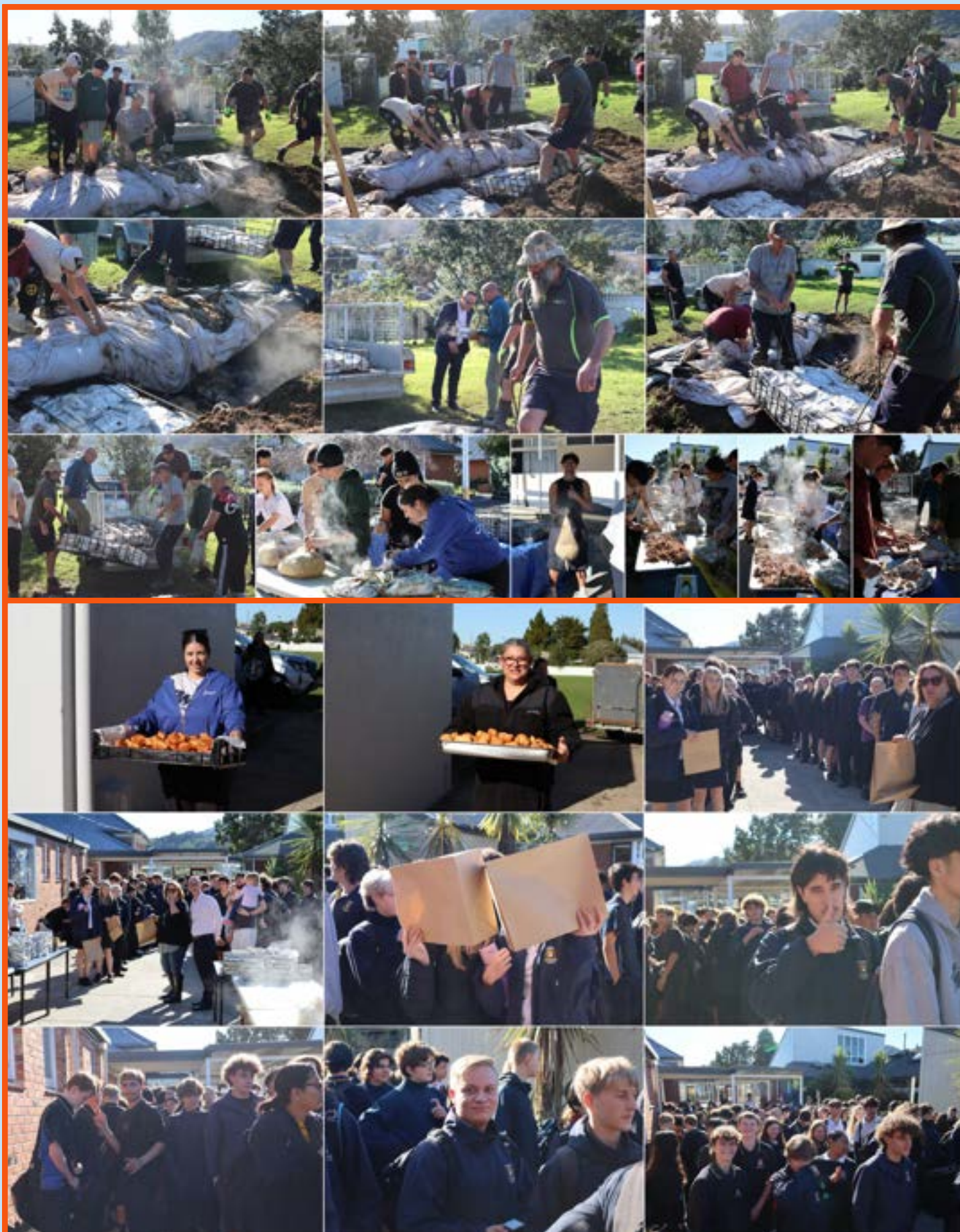
Another special thanks to Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Kauaeranga (Thames South School) for their generous lending of the irons, sacking and sheets for the umu. The iron food baskets for the hangi were made possible by a grant from The Seagull Centre in 2023.

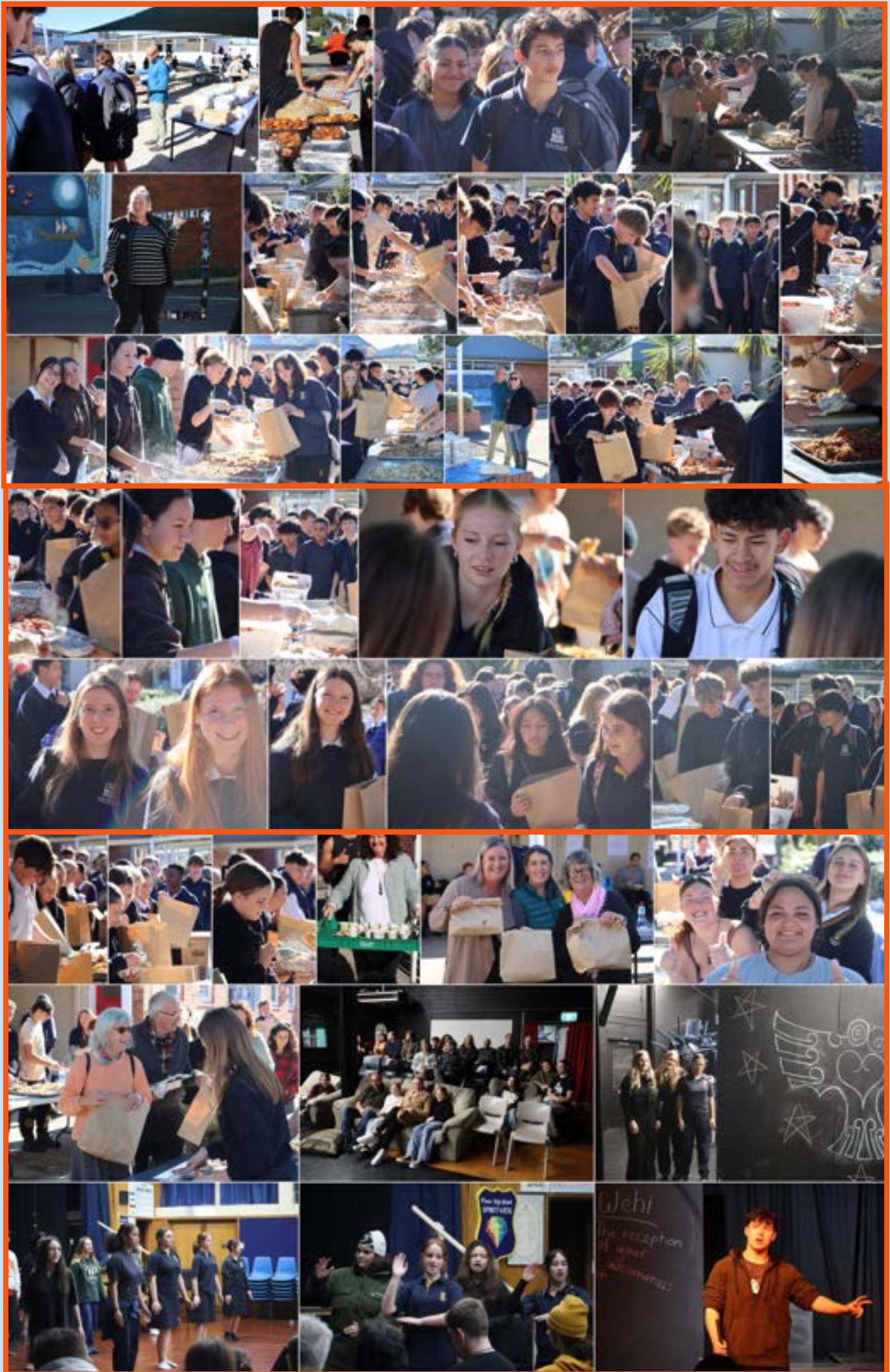
We will look to build further on these events as we honour Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge and understanding).

Michael Hart
Principal / Tumuaiki











Creative Writing



Creative Writing

Snakes of smoke rise with the promise of bacon. Chopped onion littered on a chopping board, waiting for their time to star in the dish; fried rice. My father floats around the kitchen, calm in the masses of chaos. Whilst not a divine culinary experience, his food still displays a mixture of flavours and colours perfected to our family's standard through experimentation.

The aftermath of a war with the eggs sits dead on the stovetop. Decked in blackened butter, and food that made its home in the warmth of the pan. The sourness of onions stalks slowly around the room, yet his eyes are not laced in tears as he perseveres through the smoke flooding the kitchen. One door is shut to avoid the blaring headache of a smoke alarm whilst one is opened to avoid the darkening mist-type situation lingering longer than necessary. The clouds have already elevated off the pale blue tiles from behind the oven twisting their way through the entrance to streams of sunlight that were quickly dying against the horizon leaving an ombre of pinks, and yellows.

Music filled the room, energy lifting in its presence, always themed to my father's moods or sometimes the dish itself. Today it was a simple jazz-style melody. It brightens up the room even though the summer sun is being forced past the hills lining the horizon, streams of sunlight a last protest from it as it creeps further away. Bare feet pad across the room. He was always like that, underdressed, whether it was the middle of summer or winter nights that cooled the room. There were very few occasions that shorts were exchanged for winter wear meaning his outfits rarely changed. Freckles of paint-stained them, and a neutral palette although navy blue had snuck in there over the years, yet mostly it remained extremely similar shirts coloured with grey or black.

A frown crosses his face, concentrated and thoughtful yet tense. My father always wore a neutral expression when he was tired. But if he saw you looking at him, he would exchange a soft smile concealing worry and fatigue. The wood beneath his feet creaks courtesy of water damage on the wooden floors underneath the lino as he makes his way over to the metallic bench. Which was currently covered in freshly used dishes and herbs and spices, not a piece of metal in sight. My father's cooking was not the definition of organised, always ending with our table covered in lovely food whilst the bench was hit by a hurricane, disastrous to clean. The final product is always well received, though.

Sophie Whyte (Year 10)



Creative Writing

Looking into the outside kitchen, I see Pops 'pootling' around. He's locked in, tossing in ingredients and stirring the pot. I hear him mutter to himself about something I can't quite catch. The sizzling sound of oil fills the air, and the onions are cooking away. The bubbling from one of the pots smells absolutely divine, but I can't see what's in it.

We chat about what's going on with the family—not anything too deep, but it's always nice to have a good old 'goss' with my grandad. His focus remains unwavering even though we're deep in conversation now. He's truly in the zone.

One of his many white shirts is splattered with little stains of red, adding some colour to his outfit. The baggy jeans he's got on now sport flour stains. He's probably regretting not wearing an apron. His bald head kind of matches the eggs on the bench, the only difference being the bits of fluffy hair he has. With that concentrated yet 'zen' expression he always wears when cooking, he tosses some garlic into a pan. He looks like a professional chef. It's nice to know we're going to have a wonderful dinner.

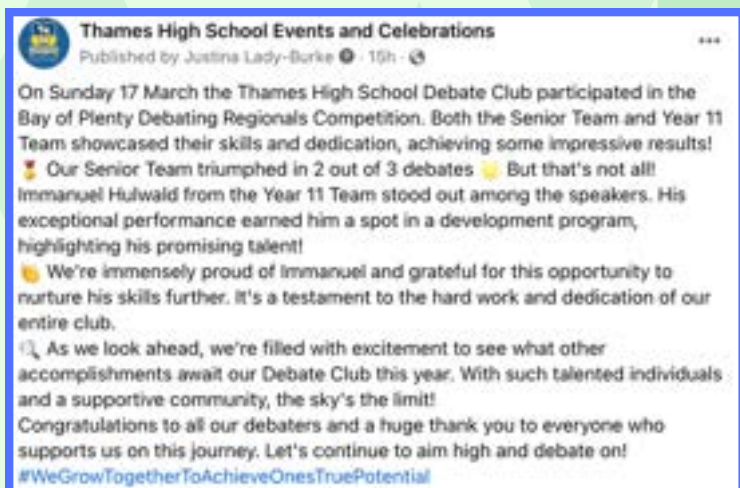
Even though this highly skilled man is a great chef, he's not a great cleaner. There's mess everywhere—spilled flour here, bits of food there—the absolute tornado that is my Pops has struck. But it's okay because his amazing food makes up for the chaos he creates while making it.

Two hours later, it's cleanup time. I'm the one tidying up because, apparently, being an adult excuses you from doing anything else. Just kidding, but the work ahead in this kitchen is no joke. I start by putting all the food and ingredients away in their designated places and piling up the dishes. I turn on the hot water and wait for it to reach the right temperature—it may take a while for the taps to heat up. Plugging the sink with my right hand, I grab the soap and pour it in with my left. I'm a multitasking genius!

As I begin to wash up, Pops enters the kitchen. He asks if I need any help. I tell him that would be amazing, as I don't know if I have the energy to dry the dishes as well. He grabs a towel from the cupboard. I turn up the radio, and we listen together, falling into a rhythm of cleaning.

Zara Chamberlain (Year 10)

Debating



Australian Maths Trust

Founded in the early 1970s by Peter O'Halloran, the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) began with a vision to enhance mathematics interest and capabilities among students.

On Wednesday 7 August, several Thames High School students competed in one of their online competitions.

All students received a certificate according to the criteria below.

Participation: is awarded to a student who has participated in the competition and received no higher award.

Proficiency: is awarded to a student who has received a pre-set score and received no higher award. Students who achieve proficiency have demonstrated competency in mathematical problem-solving to Australian standards.

Distinction: is awarded to a student who is in the top 20% of their year and region (25% for Senior division) and has received no higher award.

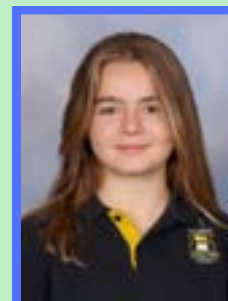
Congratulations to these students:



Simrat Kaur (Year 10)
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY



Eliza Carter (Year 10)
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY



Jessica Atrill (Year 10)
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY



Izzy Fitzsimons (Year 12)
CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION



Immanuel Huwald (Year 11)
CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION

Competition Winners



Luca Yamamoto (Year 9) competed in the annual New Zealand School of Music Competition held at Pukekohe on Saturday 8 June. As a self-taught guitar player, he earned impressive accolades:

Gold - Open Competition Category

Song: "Spanish Nights"

Gold - Own Choice Category

Song: "Malaguena"

Silver - Composition Category

Song: "Open Seas"

Silver - Text Piece Category

Song: "Someone you loved"



www.valleyprofile.co.nz

July 3, 2024, THE VALLEY PROFILE 07

ENTERTAINMENT

Flamenco guitarist strums up success

By DAVIDA HIKATANGATA

It was his love for flamenco guitar playing that led a Thames High School student to victory at a music competition last month in Pukekohe.

Thirteen-year-old Luca Yamamoto left the New Zealand Modern School of Music Competition on a high note after strumming up a storm and securing two golds and two silvers.

He took home gold for his cover of *Malaguena* in the open choice category, snagged one silver for his original song *Open Seas* in the open composition, and another silver for his cover of *Someone you loved* in the text piece category.

But it was his gold winning original song *Spanish Nights* that Luca said really made the difference in the open performance category.

Luca told *The Profile* he was up against 15 "really amazing" musicians, and wasn't sure if he would place, let alone win. "It was a really tough performance right at the end of the day."

Luca said he shared a speech before he played, which "really helped the judges tilt towards my favour".



Year 9 student Luca Yamamoto sweeps up at NZ Modern School of Music Competition.

Photo: SUPPLIED

"I wrote this piece and I just told them about my love of the flamenco genre," he said.

He played it "pretty close" to how he was supposed to, but said: "I did add a little bit extra in some of the parts though".

Even though Luca said he knew his song was one of the

more technical pieces out of the group: "I knew if I wanted to win it - I needed to play it with a lot of emotion to sway the crowd and the judges".

Luca said he added a piece while playing in the moment because "it just felt right at the time".

For the open compositions

category, Luca said he competed against a pianist he played against in 2023.

Last year Luca beat him by one point, and this year the competitor came back and beat Luca by the same amount.

"I got a score of 95 to his 96."

That would not stop Luca though, who said he was spending his time: "just learning pieces and trying to just get better".

It was his father's words that encouraged Luca to embrace flamenco style of guitar playing in the first place: "if you can master, or at least semi master the genre - everything else later on will just become a whole lot easier".

Luca said if he gets into playing with bands in all the other popular genres, it would "just feel really easy".

One thing about playing flamenco is: "there's a very significant and iconic strum style - and you need to have long fingernails for that".

A couple of days before the competition, Luca said he had a basketball match and snapped off two fingernails, which meant he "stuffed up one of my pieces, but still managed to get a score of 98".

For students thinking about playing the guitar, Luca said: "the best thing you can do is play everyday".

"The first part is tricky, that's when a lot of people stop I think.

"But if you can push past that first bit, then yeah, that's when you really get it."



Northcote Exchange



Tuesday 30 July was an incredible day at our yearly sports exchange with Northcote College. Although we didn't win, the games were intense and enjoyable.

Huge thanks to our coaches, managers and staff who attended. Our students did us proud and looked very tidy in their No 1s.

Sports **Student Leader Nia Wilson** had this to say about the day:

"This year's Northcote exchange was an incredible experience, filled with memorable moments. We started on our journey to Northcote in Auckland, travelling together in two buses, which allowed us to bond with girls in one bus and boys in another. We did a singing challenge on the way up with both buses. Personally, I think the girl's bus won with the well-known song "Baby" by Justin Bieber. We sounded SO much better than the boys.

Upon our arrival, we were warmly welcomed with a beautiful powhiri, which made us all feel so welcome.

The sports events were the highlight of the exchange, blending competitiveness with enjoyment. I had the honour of representing our school as a member of the Senior A netball team. The games were both challenging and exhilarating, and I felt that our team played exceptionally well. The other teams that were representing Thames High School also played brilliantly. Overall, the experience was very memorable, and I hope that it will continue to be so for the years to come."





Northcote Exchange



Sports Student Leader Austin Court said this:

"The scale for team sports in one day is huge during the Northcote Exchange and I imagine it involves a lot of background organising and support from our coaches and team managers. So a big thank you to them for taking time out of their busy schedules to help us enjoy more sporting opportunities.

Last year we had Northcote College come to Thames High School and at that stage, I was playing basketball. This year we took the journey up to Auckland to visit them. I am giving soccer a go this year which I have never played before but I enjoy running in the game. Since we are a small school our teams are often light in players for senior teams so it's neat that we can take some of the junior players to help make up our numbers which allows them to play in a senior team but also get to have experience of going to a different school.

What I enjoy is taking the younger ones under my wing."



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Tess Watts

July 31 at 7:15 AM

Yesterday was an incredible day at our yearly sports exchange with Northcote College. Although we didn't win, the games were intense and enjoyable. Stay tuned for our next sports panui which will have a detailed recap of the day and a selection of photographs.

Huge thanks 🙏 to our coaches, managers and Staff who attended yesterday.

Our students did us proud and looked very tidy in their No 1s.



Bush Survival Camp

On Thursday 9 May, our taiohi embarked on an exciting adventure to the Lower Mangatawhiri Campground, where they built their own bivouacs to sleep in overnight as part of the Outdoor Education Programme.

Armed with a survival knife, a rope, and a tarp, they utilized these tools along with natural resources found in the area to construct warm and watertight shelters.

During our stay, Whaea Rawinia enriched our experience with a lesson on Māori tikanga, teaching us how to respect and responsibly use natural resources. She also emphasized the importance of showing Manaakitanga to each other and practising Kaitiakitanga towards Te Taiao / the natural world, while building our shelters.

Taryn Slee

HoD / Kaiarataki Physical Education



Two wheels, endless thrills: Motocross



William Steel (Year 11) and Ollie Hunt (Year 11) put Thames High School back on the Motocross track for 2024.

Both boys entered New Zealand Battle of the Schools 2024 and competed in Round One held at Patetonga MX Track before the school holidays. Both William and Ollie enjoyed the day and they are going back for the next round at the end of July.

Pānuī Post

Cambridge Motocross

At the Cambridge Schools Cross Country MX event held at Cambridge Motorcross Club, **Jack McLaren** demonstrated exceptional skill, finishing 1st in his 15-16 years 125CC class and 7th overall, with the event boasting 200 participants and adapting to a reduced 10km track due to rain.

Pānuī Post



Cross Country & Trail Ride Series

Austin Court (Year 12) Tristan Smith (Year 12) and Jack McLaren (Year 10) competed in this event held in Tokoroa.

Austin and Tristan competed in the Seniors and Jack raced in Juniors in the timed 10 km loop - needing to complete as many laps as possible in 1.5 hrs

Both Austin and Tristan competed in the 20n km loop over two hours.

Pānuī Post

Motorcross: North Island Secondary Schools NZ Cross Country Event

Jack McLaren (Year 10) and William Steel (Year 11) recently participated in the North Island Secondary Schools New Zealand Motorcross Cross Country event representing our school.

Both boys thoroughly enjoyed the track and are looking forward to the next event. This event was held at the Taikorea MX track in the Manawatu (Palmerston North). All riders are entered as Individuals to represent their schools, the track is a sand based track predominantly covered in Pine trees. Jack placed 11th in his class 125CC - 200CC 2stroke 15-17 year olds and William rode in the Open Boys 450CC class.

Pānuī Post



Whitianga Run Fest

Blaze Houghton shows outstanding athleticism at Whitianga Run Fest!
 Congratulations to student **Blaze Houghton (Year 10)** who competed in the annual Run Fest in Whitianga. He completed the 10kms and placed 3rd overall. Blaze has his goal set on a half marathon next.



New Zealand Secondary Schools Swimming

Nova Sawyer (Year 10) and Maia Whitney (Year 9) proudly represented our school at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Swimming Championships at the National Aquatics Centre in Auckland.

Nova competed in the 50 m Backstroke and 50 m Breaststroke, while Maia took part in the 50 m Backstroke and 50 m Freestyle events. Congratulations to both girls for their outstanding achievements!



Thames High School Chess Competition

Thames High School Chess tournament attracted many students and staff.

We held our tournament over interval and lunchtime over the last week of Term 3. It was great to see some students and staff giving this great game a go. Fourteen students and five staff played in a round robin tournament. Congratulations to **Mrs Curnow** who was the overall top teacher. **Immanuel Huwald** and **Felix Milner** came out of the tournament with the same amount of points, they will have a playoff at the beginning of Term 4 to find the overall student winner.

Special thanks to our Librarian, **Ruth**, who is our teacher in charge of chess for putting on a great tournament!

Facebook Post



School Cross Country

Well done to all our students who participated in our school cross country.

Seeing so many students participating was great and we had close to 100 competitive runners. Special mention to one of our staff members Shannon Paki who ran the senior track. Congratulations to our overall winners.

Facebook Post

SENIOR BOY CHAMP - AUSTIN COURT
SENIOR BOY RUNNER UP - MATTHEW WILSON

SENIOR GIRL - NANE BECKER
SENIOR GIRL RUNNER UP - ABBY GREENWOOD

INTERMEDIATE BOY - LORENZO YAMAMOTO
INTERMEDIATE BOY RUNNER UP - COLE MUIR

INTERMEDIATE GIRL - JESS RENDALL
INTERMEDIATE GIRL RUNNER UP - MILLA SAWYER

JUNIOR BOY - LUCA YAMAMOTO
JUNIOR BOY RUNNER UP - BLAZE HOUGHTON

JUNIOR GIRL - CHLOE BOOTH
JUNIOR GIRL RUNNER UP - AMBER RAYMENT

HOUSE POINTS

ADAMS
54

HOULT
60

DORRINGTON
42

RUDMAN
54



Thames Valley Cross Country

Thames High School had 25 students participate in the 2024 Thames Valley Secondary Schools Cross Country Champions held at South Farms - Mangatarata.

This was a new track for everyone - the same venue but a different location on the farm. Plenty of mud, hills and rain showers throughout the day proved it to be a true cross-country track.

We had runners in every age group -with some tough competition from other schools, Thames High School had the largest number of runners at the event this year - AMAZING.

Special thanks to Hauraki Plains College for hosting an awesome event and thank you to all our parents who braved the cold and came along to watch and support.

Congratulations to all our runners for completing the tough terrain track. Those who are in the top 10 will be selected to attend the Wai/Bop Secondary Schools Cross Country Champs held in Kihikihi next week.

We wish them all the best.

Pānui Post



YEAR 9 GIRLS

AMBER RAYMENT -- 13TH

CHLOE BOOTH - 14TH

MAIA WHITNEY - 19TH

LILY DONALDSON - 24TH

YEAR 9 BOYS

LUCA YAMAMOTO - 6TH

U16 GIRLS

GRACIE MILLER - 14TH

ZARA CHAMBERLAIN - 16TH

U16 BOYS

JACK MCLAREN - 7TH

BLAZE HOUGHTON - 9TH

BENJY MOXSON - 13TH

COLE MUIR - 14TH

LINCOLN DONALDSON - 21ST

CARSON FLETCHER - 25TH

U20 GIRLS

NANE BECKER - 5TH

MILLA SAWYER - 10TH

ELLIE JOHNSTON - 11TH

JESS RENDALL - 12TH

ELLICE GREGOIRE - 15TH

U20 BOYS

AUSTIN COURT - 5TH

MATTHEW WILSON - 6TH

LORENZO YAMAMOTO - 9TH

FFIN OWEN - 11TH

TAJ SHIRISTOW - 12TH

ASHTON MCGUIRE - 13TH

TROY COSTELLO - 14TH

Waikato Secondary Schools Cross Country



Waikato Secondary Schools Cross Country Kihikihi Domain just outside of Otorohonga was the venue for the 2024 Waikato Secondary Schools Cross Country. We had six of our students qualify and who ran amazing on a tough course. Special Thanks to one of our PE teacher **Mr Rod Edwards** who transported and supported our team for the day. Our six runners were:

Blaze Houghton (U16 Boys - 4000m)
Milla Sawyer (U20 Girls 4000m)
Nane Becker (U20 Girls 4000)
Luca Yamamoto (Year 9 Boys -3000m)
Jack McLaren (U16 Boys 4000m)
Lorenzon Yamamoto (U20 Boys 6000m)

Golf is a Go

It is great to have our annual Thames Valley Golf Tournaments back on the sports calendar.

We had 14 players play in the Ambrose competition at Hauraki golf course for the first tournament. Special thanks to our staff **Wayne Whitney, Shannon Paki and Rod Edwards** for attending and sharing their golfing skills with the players.

We are looking forward to Term 3 where we will start golf lessons and join our local Thames Golf club.

Pānui post



We finished off our three rounds of Thames Valley Golf being held at Waihi Golf Club this week.

Entering four teams total of seventeen players attended this last round. The weather was on our side after round 3 was postponed the week before. It has been great to have Golf back on our Sports list for 2024, and it's been a very popular sport. Overall We have had twenty students in our golf team playing Ambrose Format over the past three months. Five teams of four players in each, mixed teams along with a Girls team and Boys team.

Thames Valley Secondary Schools ran three rounds of competition held at three different golf courses around the valley. Round 1 - Hauraki Golf Course and Round 2 was held at our local Thames Golf Club. There has been some huge progress and development - The Monday training sessions have been well worth it. It has been great to be able to connect with our local Thames Golf Club. We are excited for 2025 to be able to develop this sport further. If there is anyone in the community, parents or Whanau who would be keen to come on board and help with golf please contact our sports department.

October Sport Pānui



Education

ADVERTISEMENT

Outdoor adventure for THS student

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A Thames High School student didn't want to leave her experience at Outward Bound at the start of August.

Year 12 student Ora Wiki told *The Profile* she "felt my best" at the programme and wished she could go back.

"I wanted to beat our challenges," she said.

Outward Bound offers people challenges and adventure through different outdoor activities.

It was Ora's first time being part of Outward Bound, which was held at Anakiwa, a town near Picton, she said.

It's a programme where people learn and improve soft skills and life skills in general, she said.

"You push yourself to the limits mentally and physically."

Her main objective was to gain confidence and "better my decision making" through the things she learned, Ora said.

She was part of a group of 13 with two instructors, she said.

Even though it was a "scary experience" opening up to strangers, Ora said the group was kind and understanding.

"Those people are now my



Photo: SUPPLIED

Thames High student Ora Wiki found friendship and adventure at Outward Bound.

whānau," she said.

One thing that stood out to Ora about the teamwork between her and the others was "we gelled so quickly", she said.

"We became family like we'd known each other our whole lives," Ora said they motivated each other and always had each

other's backs.

"We communicated effectively and listened to each other."

The hardest thing Ora experienced was tramping which was "mentally and physically challenging", she said.

Although it was hard, Ora said it was exhilarating along-

side rowing and rock climbing.

"Each adventure was breathtaking and exhausting - that feeling of routine yet adventure and truly being in the moment was incredible."

The best way to prepare for Outward Bound was to get into a routine of waking up early,

working on regular fitness and being on time or early to class, school and functions, she said.

For others who are thinking about going to Outward Bound, Ora said "do it".

"Enjoy yourself and live completely and utterly in the moment."

Student volunteers make a difference in their communities

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Three high schools in the Thames Valley and Hauraki areas are running different initiatives to encourage students to volunteer in their communities.

Students from Waihi College, Thames High School and Hauraki Plains College talked with *The Profile* about the volunteering efforts with their schools.

Waihi College hosts a volunteer group called the Leo's Club, which runs in conjunction with the Waihi Lions Club. Community Leader and president of the Leo's Club Sabine Rush said she had been with the group for a few years and the numbers had "rocketed" this year from five people to 30.

The year-13 student said she loved the Leo's Club and wanted to get lots of students involved

by promoting and putting notices out: "and now we have this massive group".

The Leo's Club helped out at the Waihi Lions Book Fair on King's Birthday weekend by sorting books and setting up tables. With "hundreds and hundreds of books" donated every year, Sabine said it was one event the Lions needed help with, especially lifting all the boxes.

The group was also preparing for the Keep Waihi Beautiful Clean-Up, Sabine said. "Clean ups are so important. We love helping out with that." For students interested in joining the Leos, Sabine said: "It just makes you feel so fulfilled".

"I love volunteering. I love helping the Lions. I know that they appreciate our help everytime - and everyone else does, the community does."

Meanwhile, Thames High School students have been putting their hand up to volunteer in the community by joining a new initiative called

the Student Volunteer Army (SVA).

Year-13 students Ari-Ella Reed and Caitlin Jones are the facilitators of the SVA and have hit the ground running with 64 new recruits, with an even mix of boys and girls from year 9 through to year 13. Caitlin said it was cool seeing people get excited about volunteering.

Thames High career adviser Leanne Ardern said the group was a positive initiative that brought the school together.

She said Ari made a list of 15 volunteering opportunities where students could find something that interested them. Some of the options included: The Blind Association, SPCA, Land, Search and Rescue, and the recent grand opening of the Porritt Park playground.

Caitlin and Ari's main goal was to get the group up to 100 members, they said. "It's the legacy we want to leave at Thames High."

When asked if they will carry on volunteering, even after they finish high school, the leaders said: "Definitely... anywhere we can, we will".

Across the Plains, five students from Hauraki Plains College took part in a native tree planting project on their teacher's farm, alongside Hikutaia School students, who grew the trees from seedlings. Year-12 students Ayden Dird, Kyson Drewet, Connor Yeager and Hamish Foster are seasoned volunteers, and part of the group who spent a day planting 700 trees on their teacher, Bronwyn Dyer's, land.

Mrs Dyer said the planting was along 300

metres of the length of a service drain, which linked to the main drain for the Hikutaia stream.

Some of the varieties planted were: Ti-tree, Cabbage, Ginger Wood, Ribbon Wood, Kauri, Titoki and Coprosma Karamu.

Prior to the planting, Mrs Dyer said one of her neighbours saw a penguin swimming up the stream. "It shows the importance of planting along water banks - they soak up nutrients."

Seventeen-year-old Kyson said: "It was really cool that we got to work with the younger kids, learning about why we need to plant the trees", while Ayden said the kids didn't ask many questions - they were just busy planting.

The cabbage trees and grasses could handle wetter ground, down on the lower parts of the bank, Connor said.

"They thrive in the muddy water".

Connor said his motivation for doing this volunteer work was being outdoors, "getting amongst it" and helping out the community.



Thanks Valley Profile

Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Thames High volunteer leads by example

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Ari-Ella Reed is no stranger when it comes to volunteer work.

The Thames High School year-13 student has been immersed in volunteering for several years. Therefore, it's no surprise the 17-year-old was awarded the \$1000 Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award for the Thames Valley on April 12.

But that's not all, it is the first time someone has won the award in the Thames Valley. Zonta is an international organisation that is dedicated to building a better world for women and girls, and the scholarship recognises young women who demonstrate leadership skills and commitment to public service.

Thames High careers advisor Leanne Ardern said she nominated Ari for the Zonta award as she was already a seasoned volunteer who was keen to get other students involved. "Volunteering is a passion for Ari and she has managed to pass this passion on to other students," she said.

Ari, alongside fellow student Caitlin Jones, will be facilitating a new group that Mrs Ardern has created at the



Thames High School student Ari-Ella Reed is an advocate for volunteering.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

school called the Student Volunteer Army, or SVA, as a way of encouraging other students to volunteer in the community, Mrs Ardern said.

Ari told *The Profile* the award made her feel like all the hard work she had done was worth something.

"It's for all the volunteer work

that I was doing, as well as other achievements."

With a goal to get into the University of Waikato next year, Ari said her scholarship would go towards nursing school.

Volunteering efforts for Ari included international work in Peru, event work through the

Thames Business Association, and also supporting a Thames resident who is blind with tasks like grocery shopping, going for walks and household cleaning.

Harvesting maca - a plant that "looks like a radish" and has health benefits, is what took Ari, her mum and brother to Peru when she was just

12-years-old, Ari said.

Ari's Mum manages an organic store that sells maca, and was invited to Peru by the suppliers who head over and help harvest it every year. "We went into the fields and they showed us how to do it," Ari said.

Ari was also involved with events in her community such as the Santa parade and Wings and Wheels.

"There's so much work that goes into planning them."

Ari said she helped to promote Wings and Wheels by handing out fliers to shops.

On the day she directed cars, helped with the lost children and assisted people with payments as they went through the gate.

But the most important thing Ari said she learnt about community work was just how much time and energy everything needed.

"I get to see how much work people put into running those sort[s] of events."

Ari's advice for other students interested in volunteering in the community is to just get out there.

"Just get involved. It's not hard to find volunteer work, especially in Thames."

"Everyone needs volunteers."

Outdoor ed puts students to the test

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Inspiring students to work as a team and embrace challenges is what the Outdoor Education programme at Thames High School is geared up to do for its senior students.

The programme offers year 12 and 13 students an informative learning experience both inside and outside the classroom. Focusing on team work, problem-solving, and leadership skills, students will learn the theoretical aspects of different activities, followed by opportunities to apply their learnings in practical assessments.

Head of the health and physical education department Taryn Slee said the programme was "resilience building".

"It's supposed to be challenging. It's not supposed to be an easy course."

Miss Slee said part of the course was intended to test students, whether it was physically, mentally, or both at times.

"The other part is the teamwork and the collaboration with the other people in the class."

Miss Slee said it was really cool to see people stepping up to help others in class who needed extra support.

"You can tell that they've got those leadership skills that they're developing."

White water rafting at Vector Wero Whitewater Park in Manukau was the first activity NCEA



Students take to the water, left, the outdoor education class is ready for action, right, students get prepped for rock climbing, below.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Level 2 students prepared for this year.

Students had to analyse risk management strategies, think about the health and safety issues around rafting and how they might try to mitigate them, Miss Slee said.

Students used four or five rafts during the day, and afterwards, students talked about what they did to keep themselves safe in the raft, Miss Slee said.

Year 12 student Abbey Mobberley said it was her first time trying white water rafting, along with everyone else in the group.

"It's a different activity that we'd not usually do or have the opportunity to do," she said.

Experience and having more confidence to step out of her comfort zone were some things Abbey said she would like to gain from the course.

"Confidence in my peers as well because in the groups that we get put in, it's not usually just our friends."

Abbey said she was interested in the programme because of all the fun trips and it being a "different type of learning".

"All our trips are spaced out -



so we've always got something to look forward to," Abbey said.

The next class trip will be black water rafting at Waitomo caves in May.

When asked what the best thing about working as a team was, Abbey said "we're all becoming closer".

"I feel like all our communication's definitely building up."

For students who are thinking about doing the outdoor education programme next year, Abbey said it allowed students to step out of their comfort zone.

"Definitely do it."



St John cadets claim top spot at district comp

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was teamwork, focus and "quick thinking" that resulted in a group win for four Thames Valley St John Cadets.

A group of students marched their way to first place in the Senior Drill team and Inspection at the Hauraki/Coromandel District St John Cadets competition on August 4, which was held at The Goldmine Experience in Thames.

Hauraki Plains College student Kiarna Bergersen and Thames High School students Lexi Thomas, Skyla Swindells and Eli Lester made up the team of four who swept up the competition.

Hauraki Plains year 9 student Kiarna Bergersen told *The Profile* she was "over the moon" when she found out her team had won.

The thing Kiarna said she enjoyed most about being part of a drill team was working together and their quick thinking.

Being involved in St John was "a passion I always had" from a young age, Kiarna said.

"[It] may have stemmed from my parents being involved in search and rescue and aviation.

"My passion is still as strong as it was, as I hope to go into a medical related career," she said.

Kiarna's advice for other students interested in being a St John cadet was: "I definitely recommend joining".

"Not only do you learn some



The winning team from left: Skyla Swindells, Eli Lester, Kiarna Bergersen and Lexi Thomas. Photo: SUPPLIED

valuable skills, but you'll also meet people, make friends from across the region and have the opportunity to attend camps, leadership courses, competitions and inter-divisional activities."

Across the Valley, Thames High year 9 student Lexi Thomas' advice was "if you want to join, just find your local cadet group".

Just go in, have a trial and see how you like it, she said.

"It's not too bad on a CV either."

For the competition, there was a part where the cadets needed to test out their skills and techniques on pretend patients.

Lexi said one of the challenges was that the patients were really good at acting "and that

could be a struggle at times".

Lexi, who wants to be a nurse one day, said she'd like to "get all the knowledge I can" because it will help in her career.

But the thing Lexi enjoyed most about being part of St John was the experiences and the friendships, she said.

"All four of us have got a connection." Fellow team mate and

Thames High year 10 student Skyla Swindells said the most memorable moment for her was "just how shocked" people were that the group came first.

Skyla said she heard how surprised their regional manager was from the audience too.

Team members Skyla, Lexi and Kiarna had all been involved with cadets for around eight years, Skyla said.

Meanwhile, Thames High year 10 student Eli Lester said he had only been involved in cadets for two years.

Eli had a few ties to cadets with his little brother who had just joined, and an uncle who used to be involved too and was the youngest cadet to earn his Grand Prior Award, he said.

The Grand Prior Award is the ultimate Award for St John Cadets to obtain.

Eli, who was also the team leader, said the group was "pretty decent friends in real life". The main thing Eli wanted to get out of St John was first aid knowledge, he said.

"If I didn't do St John, I would not really know what to do if someone just passed out in front of me - but now I do."

If something happens to someone, "then I can help them in some way", Eli said.

His advice for students who wanted to join cadets was "just do it".

"I wanted to do it for a couple of years, but I held off," he said.

"If you even think about doing it, just do it... It's been really fun."

Alumni Visits

Nurse Brie Crofts



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke

May 13

It was such a pleasure having Brie Crofts, one of our talented former students, back at kura last week to inspire our current students with her journey into Registered Nursing at the University of Waikato.

Brie, we're incredibly proud of your achievements and the impact you're making in healthcare! Keep shining bright!

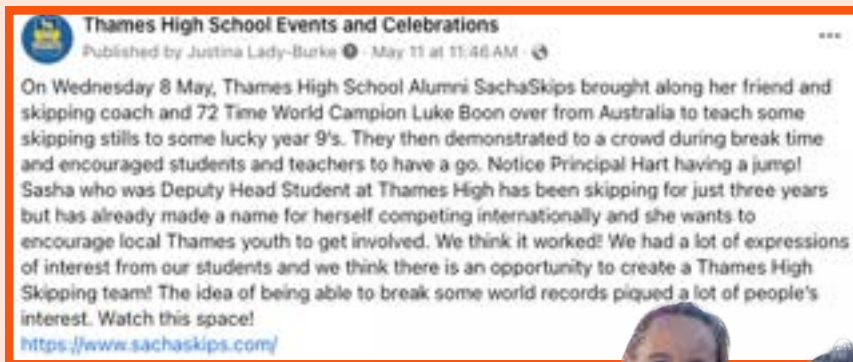
ALUMNI NEWS



Dr in the house



Sacha Skips



The Ball: A Star is Born

On Saturday 8 June, Thames High School seniors gathered for the annual school ball at the Civic Centre.

Themed "A Star is Born," the event lived up to its name as many stars shone brightly, adorned in full glam. Several students were recognised for their outstanding efforts and dazzling appearances.

The King and Queen awards were bestowed upon **Tamatoa Anderson-Wakahoe** and **Kiera Hall**. Kiera captivated everyone by donning a traditional Indian Sari. **Danny Topia** and **Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong** were crowned Prince and Princess of the night. **Head Student Koen Liddell** and **Student Leader Maia Harrison** were celebrated as the Best Couple, **Taylor Menzies** won Best Hair, **Rebekah Le Roux** took home the Best Heels award, **Luke Jamieson** was recognised for the Best Tie, **Ezekiel van der Lee** for the Best Suit, and the award for Best Ride went to **Nemburt Ceyda** and **Nadia Newton**.

This magical night wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of the community and teachers, particularly **Jen Fletcher** and the ball committee and **Taryn from Make Your Day Events** for once again using her magic and muscle to transform

the Civic Centre into a beautiful and glamorous venue.

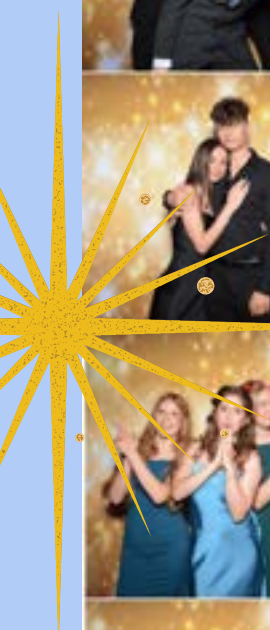
We also thank **Burtens Catering** for the delectable food, which included nachos, pulled pork, drumsticks, and salad, ensuring everyone was well-fed.

The photographers and **DJ from Shadow Productions** deserve a big thank you for providing the sounds and capturing memories that the students will undoubtedly "share and like."

Head Student Cassandra Duthie expressed her thanks to "the ball committee members Isla, Sophie, and Amber, all the student leaders, and the tech-savvy individuals like Aiden, Jayden, and Jacob. Additional thanks to the adults who helped with the setup on the day and to former student Sam Oxford for their invaluable assistance."

Overall, the night was a stunning success, filled with joy, glamour, and unforgettable memories. Here are some photos from the photo booth.











Daffodil Day



A Visit to the Navy

On Wednesday 1 May, I was honoured to visit the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland with other students from Rototuna, Bream Bay, and surrounding schools. The experience was both eye-opening and inspiring.

We were warmly greeted by recruiters who guided us around the base. We saw the impressive HMNZS Aotearoa, Te Mana, and Te Kaha docked in the harbour and witnessed HMNZS Manawanui departing for Antarctica. Touring the Officer Training Grounds and Parade Deck gave us insight into the rigorous training Navy officers undergo.

Listening to role coordinators was a highlight. We learned about mine clearance divers and hydrographic surveyors, whose work is crucial for safe navigation. Their stories were both informative and inspiring.

The day concluded with a fun game of dodgeball in the Navy gymnasium, followed by an end talk where we could ask questions about Navy life.

Overall, the visit was incredible. It opened my eyes to the opportunities in the Navy and sparked a potential interest in a future career there.

Blog Post by TJ Judd
Student Leader



Kauaeranga Valley Geography Trip

The Year 11 Geography class spent the day up the Kauaeranga Valley finding out the importance of our awesome Awa / River. Special thanks to **Alan from TCDC** and **Maree from DOC** for sharing their amazing knowledge with us.

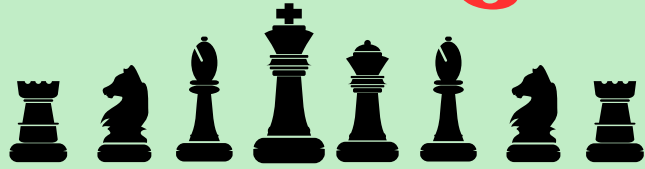
Thanks to our great drivers - **Rex and Joel**.

Also we were able to do some in the moment teaching - we got a puncture that needed to be changed. Now the class know how to change a tyre!

Jen Fletcher

Kaiawhina & HoD / Kaiarataki Social Studies

Chess Regionals



On Wednesday 5 June, six of our students competed in the regional chess tournament held at Hauraki Plains College, aiming to secure a spot in the Chess Nationals in Wellington this October.

Five of the students qualified:

Felix Milner (Year 9)

Jay Majurey (Year 12)

Immanuel Huwald (Year 11)

Til Guernth (Year 12)

Guido Fiorenzo (Year 13), who also ranked in the top five individual players.

Kou Ichikawa (Year 12) finished 11th among the 45 participants from Hauraki Plains College, Ngaruawahia High School, Paeroa College, and Thames High School.

Thank you to our school Librarian, **Ruth**, for encouraging such a thriving chess culture within her department and for all her help on the day.



04 THE VALLEY PROFILE, June 26, 2024

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

National chess finals in sight for THS

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was a clear "checkmate" for a group of Thames High School students who competed at the Regional Chess Challenge recently, coming away with a 24-point win to secure five spots at the national competition in October.

Thames High students Felix Milner, Jay Majurey, Immanuel Huwald, Til Guernth and Guido Fiorenzo were dubbed the top five individual players of the challenge held at Hauraki Plains College on June 5, which means they qualified for the Chess Power ONLINE Team National Finals in Wellington.

Seventeen-year-old Kou Ichikawa was part of the team and placed 11th, but missed out on the national qualification.

Thirteen-year-old champion Felix Milner told *The Profile* even though his team was expecting it - "it still felt great to win".

Felix said he played seven games, and even though the first three were relatively easy - he struggled most in the one he lost against a player from Ngaruawahia High School.

"They had a few good players. There were two Year 13s I think that I struggled a bit against," Felix said.

"And those were probably the two hardest games."

Overall, Felix said he usually played "quite positionally and fast", but during the last few moves of the game he would find



THS regional chess challenge champs, left, Felix Milner, Immanuel Huwald, Til Guernth, Jay Majurey and Guido Fiorenzo.

Photo: SUPPLIED

himself getting "locked up".

"I need more movement in my end games, so that's probably the biggest thing," he said.

When asked if he could create a new chess move, Felix said he'd like to see a further reaching knight - one that moves three squares forward and two squares across.

His inspiration came from chess videos and tournaments, but it was "playing with my Dad that always got me started", he said.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Jay Ma-

jurey said he first took up the game when he saw a chess board in the library office in 2022.

Jay said he wasn't really preparing for the national competition in any way - but was looking forward to playing with new people.

A similar sentiment was expressed by 15-year-old Immanuel Huwald, who said he always enjoyed the challenge of playing against others - but in terms of preparation: "I just play chess".

He said it's like any other sport. "If you want to get good you

need to practice and play against other people, most importantly people of varying playing ability."

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Til Guernth said the most important thing about chess was just "playing a ton".

"You can learn theory and everything, but playing chess against people who are stronger than you is the best way you can improve."

Til is an exchange student and will head back to Germany in August so unfortunately wouldn't be able to go to the nationals.

He said he would have prepared for the competition by watching chess videos from Youtuber GothamChess.

But when it came to winning, 18-year-old Guido Fiorenzo said it was not always a good thing.

"The fun part of this game is to squeeze your brain to overcome the opponent's tactics."

He said the most important thing in chess was how you can play 100 excellent moves: "but just one blunder will lead you to lose the game."

Boulton Cup



Our Senior A Netball team played in the annual Thames Valley Secondary Schools Boulton Cup netball tournament.

This year it was held at Thames - Rhodes Park. It was great to see so many Thames Valley schools enter in the tournament for 2024.

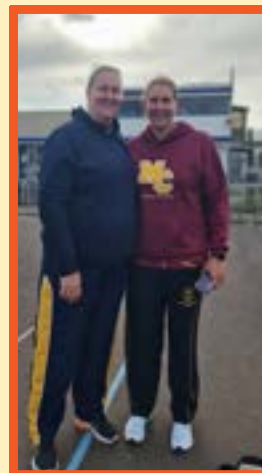
Special thanks to Manaia who hosted and a huge thanks to **Kelly Hudson and Kathy Ngamane** who ran such an awesome event. Both Kelly and Kathy's contribution to netball is extremely appreciated.

This year for the Boulton Cup was a huge learning curve for our Senior A Netball team. We are in the redevelopment stages for netball at Thames High School and to see consistent improvements throughout each game during the tournament was our main goal.

We are extremely lucky to have **Michelle Tupper** (past Waikato Magic player) as our Senior A Coach who is working hard with our young team to build skills, create fun, and extend their knowledge of netball.

Congratulations to **Student Leader Ora Wiki** who was named in the Boulton Cup tournament team for 2024.

Special Thanks to **Fairview Windows and Doors Thames** for Sponsorship of our Senior A Netball Hoodies and **Zonita Club** for their generous donation towards the UNISS tournament in September.



"The New Zealand Mens & Mixed Netball Association Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Michelle Tupper as Team Manager of the NZA Men's team for the upcoming World Series. The team will be competing in Singapore from 2nd to 8th December.

Michelle brings a wealth of experience in both coaching and managing roles in Ladies, Mixed and Men's Netball. As a player, she has also represented both South Africa and New Zealand at International level".



Netball: Upskilling through experiences

Our Junior Gold Netball girls were lucky enough to head along courtside to a recent Magic vs Steel game held in Hamilton.

The girls were really lucky to have the opportunity to meet some of the players and have photo opportunities. Coach **Kelly Taurua** "We had a blast and the girls' learning will reflect on the court in our upcoming game."

Special Thanks to the team coach Kelly who organised this experience for the girls!

Facebook Post



The coach connect day was an awesome experience connecting with other coaches from across the Waikato Bay of Plenty as well as coaching developers and umpires.

By connecting with other coaches I learned that we face similar challenges and also got an insight into their life as a coach. We were lucky enough to watch the WBOP SHNL vs Mainland SHNL game and meet with their coaching team post-game. We also were able to watch the Magic vs Tactix Game only a few rows back from the court, what an amazing view of the teams battling it out on the court. It was a great opportunity to be able to have the Magic and Tactix coaches available to give us a debrief pre-match, post-match and an insight into what their days look like pre and post-game. We also got to hear from Fay the international umpire and her experiences with travelling the world as an umpire and Rachel who is the WBOP development lead. Overall it was a great day with amazing opportunities and learnings. We gained game analysis tips, game templates and a netball-loving whanau.

Written By: Junior Gold Coach - Kelly Taurua

Thames Valley Tennis

After the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Tennis Champs being postponed in Term 1 it was great to have a successful tennis champs held at Waihi Beach Tennis Club recently.

We had a team of 11 players who played singles and doubles for the tournament. Well done to all players.

Well done to Jodie Loudon and Saki Sekido for playing against each other in an awesome Intermediate girls single final.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jodie Loudon for being the 2024 Intermediate Girls Champion, Jodie was also last year's 2023 Champion for Junior Girls singles.



Pink Shirt Day



Thank you to all who donated to the Pink Shirt Day cause and helped combat bullying. We raised over \$200! Here are some happy and very pink photos from the day! Special mention to Student Leader Kayla Speed for taking all the "Heart" photos and contributing to making the day run so smoothly.





PINK
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DAY



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Musical Mentorship

My name is Izzy and I am one of the Arts & Culture Student Leaders at Thames High School. I moved to Thames from Wellington at the beginning of last year (2023). I was initially nervous and I wasn't sure what to expect.

However, it wasn't long before I found just how great this school can be. Coming from the city, I was apprehensive about how many opportunities there would be in such a relatively small school and town.

On the contrary, I soon found that in a smaller pond, it is much easier to be noticed, staff are much more personal and the school as a whole can focus on students as individuals much more than I've seen in larger schools. The school has pushed me to pursue what I enjoy and find a way to excel in those areas. In Wellington, I was too afraid to put myself out there musically but it's thanks to Thames High School that music is now one of my NCEA subjects.

I sing in a band called Hazy and the Jays which is made up of other students here at Kura. The support that the band gets from the Music HoD Dr Voice is invaluable. We are offered so many opportunities to perform. To date we have performed at the opening

of Porritt Park, the school's Matariki Celebration, we visited CFM a few times to perform live on air which was organised by our teacher and on Friday 23 August, we performed at the beautiful St George's Church as part of the music department's showcase.

The event was hosted by MC Pyper Liddell, with occasional help from her brother, Head Student Koen Liddell. Everyone did so well! It was great that we had some male vocalists join our singing ensemble this year and I think that will show younger male students who may be interested in joining that it's cool to sing! Together we sang "Hallelujah" and I think we sounded awesome. I performed a solo and also sang with the band. It was a fun afternoon. I think everyone did really well considering a lot of us were sick with the cold. I would also like to thank the Thames Music Group for hosting us. Our music Kaiako, Dr. Voice, expressed her immense pride in us and thanked her amazing team of music teachers but I would like to thank them also.

A big highlight for me was competing with the band in the Waikato Regional Smokefree Rockquest earlier this year, we got to the final heat and won the APRA lyric award and we were delighted to be featured in an article in the Valley Profile about it

Izzy Fitzsimmons. (Year 11)
Arts & Culture Student Leader

24 THE VALLEY PROFILE, June 12, 2024

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

ENTERTAINMENT

Hazy & the Jays rock the stage at Rockquest

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Being on edge about their performance didn't hinder a Thames High School band from landing a top 12 spot in a music contest.

Hazy & the Jays told *The Profile* they were nervous as they performed their song, *History*, at the Smokefree Rockquest Waikato Regional Heats in Hamilton on May 12.

"But as soon as we got on stage we felt great," they said.

"We've all had a fair bit of performing experience, so we were just happy to be there."

Hazy & the Jays consists of year 12 Arts & Culture student leader Izzy Fitzsimmons on lead vocals, year 12 Manukura student leader Harris Elliot-Hogg on guitar, year 13 student Jacob Rush on bass and year 13 student Jacob Wenhold on drums.

The students were in different classes and "quite surprised" when they found out they'd be advancing to the next round at the Waikato Regional Finals on June 28.

"Our band text group chat went crazy when we found out," the band said.

After their performance, Hazy & the Jays said they watched the remaining acts



Izzy Fitzsimmons, left, Harris Elliot-Hogg, Jacob Wenhold, Jacob Rush, and were "blown away" with their talent.

"To be honest, we weren't that confident - but we are very glad to make it through.

"We are excited to show what we can do."

The group started working together last year during some school music performances and became interested in entering Rockquest.

"So this year we formed our own band with that focus."

While they said they loved the idea of a musical career, it was "just the love for music itself that makes it all worthwhile".

The band said they were working on a second song for the next leg of the competition, and if time permitted, they would write another one to perform instead of *History*.



Hazy & the Jays rock out at the Smokefree Rockquest Waikato regional heats.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Otherwise, they were focusing on "practicing, practicing and more practicing" to prepare. If that wasn't enough, the band were also currently working on an EP based on the five stages of grief.

"*History* represented the anger stage and we are currently working on *Lavender*, which represents bargaining," they said.

Even though Hazy & the Jays were unsure about which genre or sound they fit into - "we take inspiration from a range of groups and make it our own".

For others interested in starting a band and getting involved with Rockquest, Hazy & the Jays' advice was "just do it".

"Find like minded people

and give it a go," they said.

"It would be great to see a bit more Thames representation out there.

"Performing isn't for everyone but the more you do it the easier it becomes."

DETAILS: To keep up with Hazy & the Jays and find out about upcoming gigs - find them on Facebook and Instagram: @hazyandthejays.

Visit to CFM

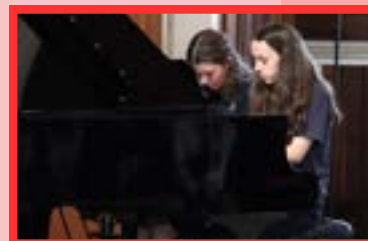


Photos from a visit to CFM. Harris, Izzy and Jacob performed "Californication" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and "Linger" by the Cranberries, with Harris on Guitar, Izzy on Vocals and Jacob on Bass Guitar.



regional
finals

St George's Concert



THS students visit capital city

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of Thames High School students travelled to Wellington last month as part of their history and art studies.

The year 12 and 13 students visited the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand Parliament and Wētā Workshop over the course of three days.

Seventeen-year-old student leader of academics Maia Harrison told *The Profile* the purpose of the trip was to look at and learn more about things the students studied in their history class.

Maia said they completed a unit on World War II, which was why they visited the Holocaust Centre.

The group of students also went on a walking tour of Parliament, where Maia said she walked past a few politicians.

"A couple of them I didn't even realise were politicians until we went into the chamber and then watched them."

Meanwhile, Year 13 student Jacob Rush was "shocked" during the public gallery session at Parliament that the group got



Thames High School students on Wellington class trip, right, a student reads up on history.



Photos: SUPPLIED

to watch. Jacob had never seen Parliament TV before so it was "quite a shocking experience to see what it's like in there", he said.

The group got to sit in on question time and hear a few speeches before moving on, Jacob said. However, it was their trip to Wētā Workshop that impressed the two students.

Although there wasn't one specific piece of artwork that

stood out to Maia, it was more the craftsmanship behind all of the work that people had done over the years, she said.

The amount of work produced by a New Zealand company for such big films was impressive, Maia said.

Jacob said one of the craziest things he saw there was the creation process for all the silicon molds and things people made - they were "really creepy...

cool, but creepy".

But one thing both students spoke highly of was their time at Te Papa.

Maia said she enjoyed one display called Blood, Earth, Fire. It showed New Zealand's evolution: "what the land was like and the animals were like before, during, and after the country got discovered", Maia said.

While Jacob said: "I feel like

Te Papa was a really good experience".

Te Papa offered oral and visual experiences, such as the Battle of Gallipoli - with models of people from the war, Jacob said. "It gives us a much more grounded perspective on things...obviously it's not real, but it's a much more real feeling and so, you connect with them more - with all of the exhibits."

wellington trip



Some Art Boards

Alison Tomsett Year 11



Tyla Cullen Yr 11



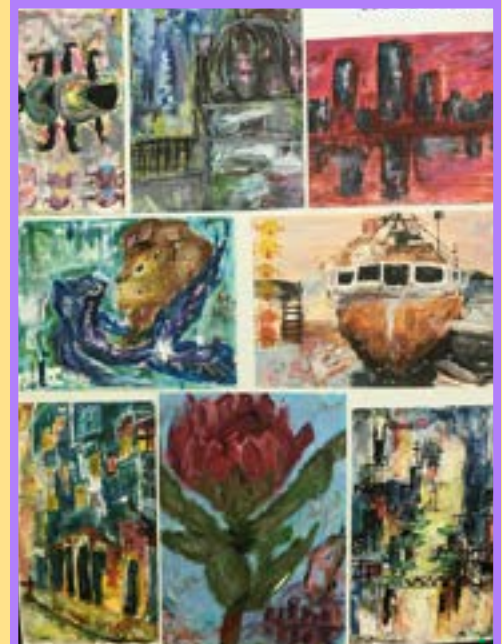
Lucy Wong Year 11



Tayo Elusanmi Year 11



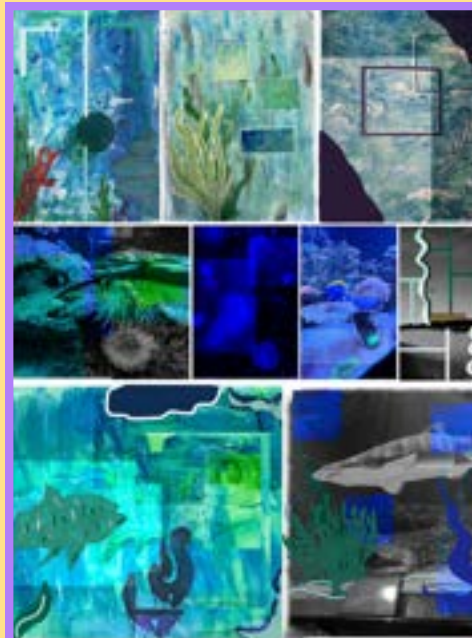
Evelyn Darwall Year 11



Lexi Dinneen Year 11



Jeena Wilkinson Year 11



Azariyah Simpson Year 12



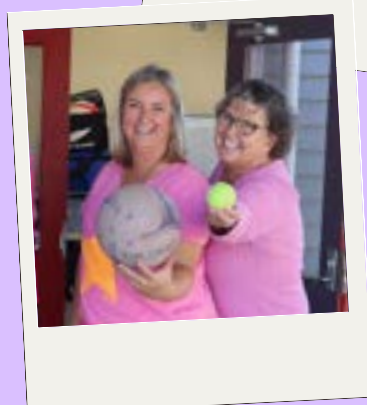
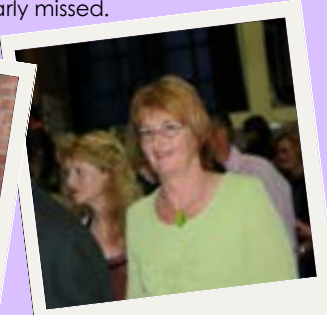
THAMES HIGH SCHOOL
Welcomes
ROD EDWARDS

Mr Rod Edwards is the new headmaster of Thames High School

We grow together in a caring community dedicated to excellence in education



Raewyn leaves a legacy of young people inspired by her personalised approach to teaching, nurturing the creativity of her students. Her classroom has been a vibrant hub of innovation, where taiohi have learned not only technical skills but also the importance of perseverance, and self-expression. As Mrs Grey begins this new chapter, we wish her well for a just as fulfilling retirement. Thank you Mrs Grey for your extraordinary contribution, you will be dearly missed.



Active As



In 2023 Thames High School was chosen as one of 40 schools nationwide to lead the Active As project, a new project between regional agencies and Sport New Zealand supporting secondary schools to provide quality active recreation and sports opportunities aiming to promote physical activity among students.

The project supports schools to design and implement their own physical activity initiatives. This year has seen an "Active As Hour" started every Wednesday for Year 9 students at Thames High School. The hour is divided into four strands—Culture, Environment, Performing Arts, and Physical Activities—rotating each term to offer diverse experiences.

Under the Culture strand, students explore Māori, Pacifica, and Indian traditions like dance, poi, and rakau.

The Environment strand involves river studies, tree planting, and gardening. Performing Arts introduces street theatre skills such as balloon animals and stilt walking, while Physical Activities focus on outdoor games and challenges.

Tess Watts leads the project as Active As Coordinator, ensuring its successful launch. One year 9 student was overheard saying "It's the best class of the week!" and another has said "I feel like I'm being physical when I'm at Active As hour"

Thames High School has appointed a lunchtime activities facilitator, with Xavier Brown set to take on the role from Term 2. Xavier will organise various activities during breaks, a step we think will continue to promote greater peer interaction among students, a trend staff have already noticed growing during Term 1 following the introduction of the "No Phones" policy.

Environment

"Environmental Active As has had a blast going up to the Karaka river, learning about macroinvertebrates, eDNA, testing the water, seeing how rubbish impacts a river, planting trees to look after the riverbank and seeing what 600 metres of concrete does to our native fish, especially Inanga. We have loved walking up each Wednesday and getting a good look and how a river ecosystem works. Big shout out to Ric Balfour for helping us this year"

Teacher in Charge – Kiryn Curnow

Drama / Arts

"The Active As Cirque class was fabulous! For one hour each week our akonga got to experiment, with Stiltwalking, Whips, Axe Throwing, Magic (on the charlatan level), Acrobalance and Acromovement, Fire Poi, Fire Sculpture, Balloon Sculpting and other conventions of festive theatre. We also had guest facilitators from Circus in a Flah, and The Dust Palace come into our kura to inspire our tamariki and introduce them to the wider professional cirque community of AotNZ. By engaging in these extraordinary and exciting activities, our young people began to see themselves as extraordinary and exciting individuals. Beyond that, they created fire-sculptures for our Matariki celebrations and developed acts for our extracurricular performing troupe."

Teacher in Charge – Luke Devery

Culture

"The cultural space has been both fun and challenging, pushing students to think creatively and physically as they engage with cross-over activities. It has been exciting to see how body movements and cognitive skills intersect, providing opportunities for learning both in terms of physicality and culture. Students have expressed a desire to learn more games within this cultural space, which has sparked interest in both traditional and contemporary games."

Teacher in Charge – Whaea Ra

ACTIVE AS

Your VOICE MATTERS

LESS STRESS!

Physical

"Active As Physical is all about having a go! We aimed to offered a number of different opportunities for our taiohi to try out. Most activities were offered for 2 weeks so that students could improve their abilities within the activity. Points were not counted, rules were changed to suit and challenges were set."

Teacher in Charge – Carolyn Green



Active As

Active As Cultural Report 2024 by Whāea Rawinia

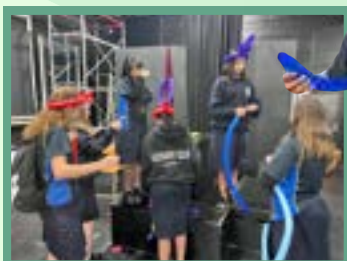
In 2024, Active As (A.A.C) introduced a unique approach to physical activity through a cultural lens, incorporating a variety of traditional Māori and Pacific games and practices. Activities such as *Ti Rākau*, *Tihi Toera*, *Poi Whuia*, Poi (long and short), and Māori traditional hand games became central to the curriculum. The four Roopuu groups rotated throughout the year, allowing students to experience Active As in different spaces, including cultural, environmental, dance, and drama.

The cultural space has been both fun and challenging, pushing students to think creatively and physically as they engage with cross-over activities. It has been exciting to see how body movements and cognitive skills intersect, providing opportunities for learning both in terms of physicality and culture. Students have expressed a desire to learn more games within this cultural space, which has sparked interest in both traditional and contemporary games.

Key Activities & Highlights:

- **Hand Games:** Students explored traditional Māori hand games, starting with knuckle bones and progressing to *Mū-Ōtērere* (a Māori version of draughts). This introduction sparked interest in cultural games from other backgrounds, broadening the scope of learning.
- **Ti Rākau:** This activity challenges hand-eye coordination and body movement. In addition to focusing on the hands, the activity expanded to include footwork and timing, adding complexity and enhancing the learning experience.
- **Elastics:** After mastering *Ti Rākau*, students revisited elastics, adding a new dimension to their skillset. This game combined flexibility, rhythm, and agility, engaging both the body and the mind.
- **Melanesian Bamboo Game & Dance:** A new inclusion was a Melanesian Bamboo game, which combined dance movements with physical challenges, encouraging creativity and cultural exploration through play.
- **Raupuhi and Rautaka:** These games challenged students' agility in small spaces, and the boys especially enjoyed modifying the games to create variations, even expanding them across four sections. Their innovative thinking showcased the adaptability of cultural games in a modern context.

Active As Lesson: Term 4. Year 9 Cirque and Drama students enjoy practising some really physical shape making and acrobats



We are in our 3rd rotation of Active As and our Year 9's will have had some awesome opportunities to be physically active and hopefully ignite a passion or interest in one of the opportunities they have experienced. Being able to provide these sessions allows our students to participate at their own pace. We are currently looking at how we can involve Active As in other year levels for the 2025 school year.

Lunchtime activities are being provided every day for ALL students. Table tennis and basketball have been extremely popular.

-Update from August Pānui



Disc golf is a hit!

We are really lucky to have had three permanent disc catchers installed around our field, along with a fourth portable catcher that can be placed anywhere. All thanks to Active As!

Golf has been a popular topic with our rangatahi and was one of the requests from our students for Active As. We are pleased we can provide more fun opportunities for our students to be more active with their friends. We also have purchased freestanding basketball hoops which will be getting put up very soon.

-Update from October Pānui



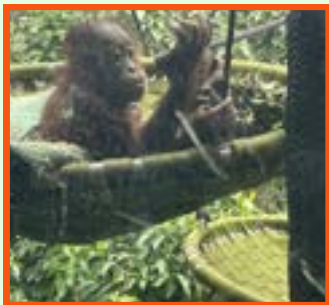
PHYSICAL

FREE PLAY, FUN, NO PRESSURE, NO COMPETITION
EXPLORING WAYS TO MOVE YOUR BODY



Environmental

Biology Trip to Auckland Zoo



On Monday 5 August, three Year 11 Science classes visited the Auckland Zoo to explore careers in conservation and biosecurity and observe international captive breeding programs in action. This experience relates to our upcoming external science assessment focusing on genetics and New Zealand examples.



Librarians Trip

The team of Thames High School student Librarians visited Ngāruawāhia High School where we were met by Whaea Gemma and two head students.

We also met their library dog, Heidi. They showed us around the beautiful library, allowing us to play with Heidi and then took us on a tour of their kura. All our student librarians were impressed with how much natural light came into the library. We then went to Te Kete Aronui in Rototuna. At the end, we had 10 minutes on the playground before driving home to amazing singing of many different songs.

Ruth Howes
Librarian

Geography Trip to Rotorua

A highlight for me this year was when my geography class took a school trip to Rotorua to study the geothermal activity, volcanic landscapes, and cultural significance of the region, including its hot springs, geysers, and Māori heritage.

Our trip to Rotorua was packed with fun and adventure! We experienced a variety of activities, including Duck tours, a walk among the towering redwoods, a fascinating talk about the museum, five thrilling rides on the luge, and a tour of the Whakarewarewa Village where we witnessed the geysers in action. We also enjoyed a scenic ride on the gondola.

When we arrived at the hotel, we were treated to private cave spas with waterfalls and jets and access to an outdoor heated pool, which we all made the most of. After a delicious pizza dinner, we took a shopping trip to Kmart that may have left our wallets a bit lighter! We started our day with a luxurious all-you-can-eat buffet breakfast the next morning.

This trip was not only a chance to have fun but also an opportunity to explore and learn more about Rotorua and its rich history. I had an amazing time and would highly recommend taking Geography next year so you can experience this trip too!

Caitlin Jones
Kaiarataki Taiao-a-kura / Environment Student Leader



Get 2 Go

The Get2Go Regional Challenge on Friday 2 August, was an exhilarating day filled with outdoor adventure activities like orienteering, kayaking, stand-up paddling, and mountain biking, along with some problem-solving.

The event, held annually at Lake Karapiro near Cambridge, is designed to be fun and accessible for students of all fitness levels and experience.

This year, our team started with limited prior experience, which isn't a requirement but a readiness to embrace new challenges is essential. The competition featured three 60-minute challenges focused on Mountain Biking, Kayaking, and Orienteering/Navigation. The cold waters of the Waikato River made the kayaking challenge particularly tough for us. Despite some travel between challenges, we scored points for each activity we completed.

Overall, our team performed admirably and gained valuable insights on how to improve for next year. The highlight of the day was the strong teamwork and the sheer enjoyment of being outdoors.

Rod Edwards

Kaiako Physical Education & Health

Our Get2Go adventure racing teams participated in their second event of the year at the Opoutere Adventure Race held in Whangamatā.

With over 183 competitors entering over 9 different schools, congratulations to both of our teams which secured 1st place overall in their respective age groups.

Well done teams. Our teams were the following :

Boys team-

Jack McLaren (Year 10)

Carson Fletcher (Year 10)

Ryan West (Year 10)

and Blaze Houghton (Year 10)

Girls team-

Dimple Martin (Year 10)

Chloe Booth (Year 9)

Alzora Taylor (Year 9)

and Lily Kay (Year 9)

Special Thanks to **Yotam Kay** and **Lisa Barnett** who travelled and supported our students at the event.

Update from October Pānui



04 THE VALLEY PROFILE, August 28, 2024

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

Education

Students take on Get2Go Challenge

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of Thames High School students got to put their outdoor education skills to the test during a set of challenges held in Cambridge on August 2.

The mixed team of eight students competed in the Get2Go Regional Challenge, which involved a combination of outdoor adventure activities such as orienteering, kayaking, mountain biking, stand-up paddleboarding and a bit of problem solving - but there's a catch.

Students needed to undertake each challenge in under 60 minutes and were required to work together as a team and use skills such as communication, problem solving, planning and decision making.

Thames High physical education teacher Rod Edwards told *The Profile* even though he was the teacher in charge, his job was to just transport the students there and allow them to solve the challenges and lead themselves through it.

Mr Edwards said there were between 10 and 12 teams in total but "we were just interested in how many mixed teams we were competing against".



Thames High School squad ready to compete at the Get2Go Challenge earlier this month.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Thames High came fourth out of the five groups that entered the mixed category, he said, but were supportive of the Whangamatā Area School team who came first overall.

"That's fantastic for such an incredibly small school, but

also [for] an area school to win something like this is huge. And they're now going to the nationals," he said.

"We're putting a lot of support in behind them and a lot of encouragement.

"We hope they win the Na-

tionals."

Mr Edwards said the students planned to head over and train with the Whangamatā Area School team while they build towards nationals.

Meanwhile, Thames High year 10 student Jodie Loudon

said she was looking forward to taking some of the knowledge from the Whangamatā team and to build on her team's abilities.

Jodie said the Get2Go Challenge was a great experience with a lot of team bonding and challenging obstacles that "pushed me and my team mates".

Her team worked around their challenges by splitting into two groups and problem-solving, she said.

It was "quite stressful" in the last six minutes of their mountain bike race, Jodie said.

"We had to get as many laps as we could before the timer went off."

But one thing that stood out to Jodie was her team's positive attitude, she said.

Between challenges, Jodie said the team members reflected on the last activity and ways they could have improved.

One memorable moment for Jodie was orienteering and "getting lost in the bush", she said.

Jodie's advice for students who were interested in taking part in the challenge next year was to "give it a go, and go hard".

Girls Football



Thames High Football
August 4 at 7:21AM · 🌐

It was a huge day yesterday starting with setting off the junior boys to Hamilton at 7:40am they went on to win 7-4 against St John saints.

Then the junior girls were at HPC and they came away with a 2-0 win.

Then the senior girls played Hillcrest at home and unfortunately lost.

Finally it was the senior boys to play Hamilton Boys with them having a win 8-3.

But, our day was not over yet! The senior girls got our school hall ready for their big fundraising event the quiz night and despite the bingo on at the civic the girls did amazing and raised \$4000 to go towards their national tournament week held in Palmerston North.

Massive shout out to Fabian [Coromandel's CFM](#) who entertained the crowd and helped us to make a very large portion of our trip cost.

Well done everyone! Thank you to the supportive parents in the senior girls team who ensured a fantastic night was had! Finally home at 11pm

"This year, the Senior Girl's Football Team had the honour of travelling to Palmerston North for Tournament Week.

We were able to explore and take in all that Palmerston North has to offer because we were staying at a motel in the heart of the city.

We had games all over town, including Massey University, which was great to visit and play at. We had the opportunity to play against and meet new teams, which gave us an awesome challenge and helped us become stronger as a team.

Except for the Monday, we played two games a day and then got to go to the Lido Waterpark for 'hot and colds' and to test out the indoor hydro slide.

As a team, we had one win, which was one of our highlights that we later celebrated at the Breakers for dinner. Overall, the week was packed with priceless moments, amazing opportunities for us to bond, and a good way to end our 2024 football season. Thank you to our teachers and parents who looked after us for the week."

Cassandra Duthie

Head Student / Manuarataki-a-kura

Tournament Week



"I am so grateful I got to experience Tournament Week. As a girl playing football at Thames High School, I always wanted to attend, but I never thought I would, especially since girls' football has struggled over the years at Thames High School.

When **Mrs Curnow** announced that this year we could go to Tournament Week, I couldn't believe it!

The fun began well before the week itself, starting with our fundraisers and training. We organised multiple fundraisers, including a quiz night where we auctioned off vouchers and raffles. Quiz night was not only a great bonding experience but also a success, raising \$4,000.

We also did extra boot camps- run by the amazing **Taryn from the Fitness Co-op**, to boost our fitness levels.

Tournament Week itself was an incredible experience. We went in with low expectations about our results, but to our surprise, we had many close games and even won one—exceeding our hopes! Having a week away to play football and spend time as a team was an amazing experience.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who made this week possible: my teammates who worked hard to help us get there, our **Coach Ergin**, our Manager (and Mum) **Amanda**, all the supportive parents, and Mrs Curnow, who dedicated so much time to helping us with fundraisers and making Tournament Week a reality."

Abby Greenwood

Deputy Head Student / Manuarataki-a-kura

Upper North Island Secondary School Netball

As the Senior A Netball captain, I am incredibly grateful for our team's opportunity to attend Upper North Island Secondary School Netball (UNISS) in Waitakere this year.

Watching our team grow stronger on the court was an enriching experience.

We engaged in various activities, from dance competitions to lip-sync battles, which were organised into our sub-groups. Personally, I believe our defence team won in every competition! It was inspiring to compete alongside teams we had never faced before and to watch the A-grade teams play, setting an example we aspired to reach. Seeing other Thames Valley school teams and exchanging good luck and high-fives always left us with smiles.

We all deeply appreciate everyone who dedicated their time and effort to organising this event and all our supporters who cheered us on throughout the season.

Our team grew so much leading into UNISS and I wish all the best for the next coming years I hope it is as enjoyable as the last couple of years were, I know they are going to smash it.

Nia Wilson

Sport Student Leader



Each team member shares their highlights:

"I loved watching our team grow and connecting with each other, it was the best group to finish my last year of school netball with." - **Nia**

"My highlights from UNISS was definitely getting to compete in our little challenges, and seeing what everyone else came up with, as well as just being on the court." - **Taylor**

"I loved watching our team bond over the UNISS period, the more we bonded the more we succeeded on the court." - **Chloe**

"My highlights were making stronger connections and sisterhood within the team, as well as getting my hair done and massages, also the ice baths." - **Romie**

"My highlight of the week would be our last day of games, where we were all connecting so much better. I enjoyed forming better friendships outside of netball."

- **Kyah**

"I enjoyed being able to bond with everyone on the team, and watching us get stronger throughout the week, especially the new players." - **Abbey**

"I enjoyed being in a different environment, meeting new people, and creating stronger friendships. It was a really cool experience and an opportunity that you wouldn't want to miss." - **Abbygail**

"My highlight was being able to know everyone in the team way better, I really enjoyed the activities we did and being able to beat the team we have always wanted to Mercury Bay." - **Caileigh**

"My highlight was our last game together, it was extremely important to me because I would lose my #1 defence duo" - **Ora**

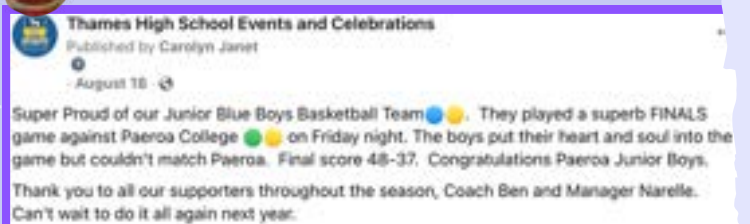
"I loved being able to stay at a house where it was big enough to not only have our down time but to be connected and all under one roof, I also loved our morning chats and afternoon debriefs so we were all on the same page" - **Lawron**

"I loved learning new things and being able to experience UNISS for the first time. I also loved our dancing battles" - **Musa**





Junior Boys Basketball



We are incredibly proud of our Junior Blue Boys Basketball Team for their exceptional performance in the FINALS against Paeroa College on Friday 16 August.

The boys gave it their all, but unfortunately fell short, with a final score of 48-37. Congratulations to Paeroa Junior Boys on their victory.

A big thank you to all our supporters, Coach Ben and Manager Narelle for their dedication throughout the season. We're already looking forward to doing it all over again next year!



Junior Girls Basketball



Girls Football

Some lovely photos of the Junior Girls Football taken by One of a Kind Photography.



Senior Boys Football

Again thanks to One of a Kind Photography for the photos

Congratulations to our senior boys football team who placed second overall at the Thames Valley Football Tournament held in Matamata.

The boys played Matamata College in the final and unfortunately didn't get the win.

Special thanks to past student James Harvey for coaching the boys and to Kiryn Curnow for being an amazing manager and driver for the team.

Update from Sport Pānui



Sporting Success: Ellie Johnston

It was a fantastic weekend at the GFA in the Bay competition in mid July, hosted by three clubs in the Bay of Plenty.

This annual recreational gymnastics event, Gym For All, was successful.

Ellie Johnston (Year 12) had an outstanding performance across five disciplines:

- Trampoline (Level 7): Gold
- Double Mini Trampoline (Level 7): Silver
- Tumbling Short Track (Level Snr 3): Gold
- Tumbling (Nationals Format): Gold
- Women's Artistic Gymnastics (Beam, Bars, Floor, Vault) - Level 7: Gold

For her final event, Ellie competed at Level 7, a newly introduced top level for recreational gymnasts. Remarkably, she was the sole competitor in this level, which featured more challenging requirements compared to other levels. Her beam routine, for instance, included complex skills like a back tuck, back handspring, and back walkover, all executed flawlessly.

As the season opener, Ellie was thrilled with her results. The other Thames Gymsports competitors also had strong performances.

Update from Ellie's mum



Sporting Success: Hunter Growden

Congratulations to **Deputy Student Leader Hunter Growden (Year 13)** for being selected to play in an invitational Under 18 New Zealand Rugby team at the World Schools Festival in Abu Dubai.

Facebook Post

20 THE VALLEY PROFILE, August 7, 2024

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

SPORTS

World Schools Fest to host Valley's best

RUGBY

By DAVIDIDA HIKATANGATA

It's not every day that people are given the chance to play sports on the other side of the world.

However, five young people from the Hauraki Plains and Thames Valley areas have landed an opportunity on the world stage.

Hunter Growden, Chris Lourens, Rohan Landy, Nikora Tawa and Ethan Watts have been selected to play in an invitational under-18 New Zealand rugby team at the World Schools Festival in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in December.

Seventeen-year-old Thames High School deputy head boy Hunter Growden told *The Profile* he was super excited when he found out the news. "I was around the boys and stuff, so they were all super happy for me."

Hunter said he'd played rugby his whole life and had looked forward to playing at the festival for a few years. It was his friends and family who helped keep him motivated, he said. "They help me get to the gym and they help me with all my dietary requirements and stuff all the time. I really just enjoy playing for them and with them."

When asked if there would be more opportunities to come from this, Hunter said: "100 per cent".

"Hopefully, I'll just be able to pick them up and be able to bring my A game to this."

"As long as I can just put my best foot forward and kind of con-



Clockwise from left: Ethan Watts, Chris Lourens, Rohan Landy, Nikora Tawa and Hunter Growden.

time to represent and just stay humble over there - I think it will be the best way for me to go."

Over in the Hauraki Plains, 17-year-old student Chris Lourens said the thing he was most looking forward to was playing with experienced team members and getting the knowledge and experience of high-level coaches.

The rugby team won't train together until they were on the other side of the world. "So, we meet in Abu Dhabi three days before, and we train for those three days," Chris said.

One challenge that could come

up between now and the competition is: "there's still a lot of [local] rugby to be played, so there's always injuries that could pop up on the way", Chris said. "But hopefully we don't come across any of those." His advice for students interested in applying for the next World School Festivals was: "you gotta own it". "You've got to give it your 100 per cent every time you take [to] that field - you never know who's watching."

Meanwhile, fellow schoolmate 17-year-old Rohan Landy said his best advice was: "if you ever think of doing something big - chase



Photos: SUPPLIED

your dreams, set your goals and work out what you need to work on".

"If it's personal skills or leadership - just do your best and enjoy yourself", he said.

One thing that helped Rohan stay motivated was having his mum and grandma "who always go to every game, and haven't missed out on one", he said.

Rohan was looking forward to meeting other passionate rugby players, he said.

Seventeen-year-old Nikora Tawa said he had friends who made it into the team in 2022

which "motivated me to sign up".

Nikora said he was looking forward to his chance to play under professional coaches and with other international teammates.

His family, friends and teachers inspired him to give his best, Nikora said.

"Just knowing I have people that back me gives me motivation."

Nikora said: "the culture of the team I play for makes me want to be able to bring us home a trophy".

Meanwhile, former Hauraki Plains College student 17-year-old Ethan Watts said it would be his second time participating in the event as he also played at the 2023 festival in Thailand.

"Last year it was quite nerve-racking, but I just feel way more comfortable and more excited knowing I've been there [and] done it before."

"I really want to go over there and just do my best," Ethan said.

Ethan said there were a few people he knew heading back this year: "which will be quite good because you connect with them straight away".

"As soon as you're over there, you're mates."

When asked if there was someone who inspired him, Ethan said: "it's mainly just my family, you know, [they] just do so much for me... I just want to make them proud".

The players are raising funds for the trip through raffles and givealittle.co.nz.

Sporting Success: Harley Harris

Congratulations to **Harley Harris (Year 12)** who has been selected to trial for the New Zealand U18 Touch Team. He represented the Thames Valley Team U16 Mixed for the season of 2023/24.



Photos from Thames Valley Touch Facebook page

Thames Valley Badminton



On Friday 2 August, we were delighted to host the Thames Valley Badminton Championships for Senior Students with over 100 participants from various Thames Valley Secondary Schools.

Our school had 36 representatives and Austin Court notably placed second in the Senior Boys Singles.

Special Thanks to **Jeremy from Thames Valley Badminton**, who helped organise and prepare the draw for both days.

Overall total number of players across the two days - 244. Total games played across the two days - 350.

Junior Boys entered - 48

Junior Girls entered - 77

Senior Boys entered - 67

Senior Girls entered - 52

Junior Winners:

Singles Runner-Up

Ben Eady (Year 10)

Doubles Runner-Up Boys

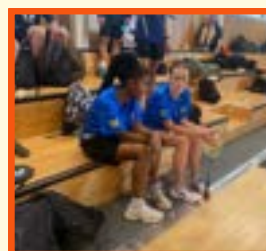
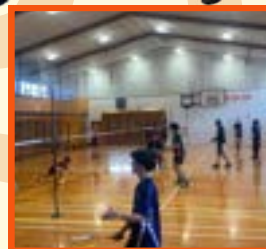
Ben Eady and

Devnarayan Don (Year 10)

Doubles Runner-Up

Girls **Lily McCarthy (Year 10)** and

Frankie Merrett (Year 10)



JNR Girls Singles Champion - Lily McCarthy

JNR Boys Singles Champion - Ben Eady

SNR Girls Singles Champion - Romie Dargaville

SNR Boys Singles Champion - Austin Court



THS Badminton Tournament

On Friday 27 September, we held our Badminton Singles Championships with 50 students participating.

Congratulations to all our players for some fantastic games and results. Some very close games. It was great to have so many of our students keen to play badminton.

Well done to our overall winners:

JNR Girls Champion - Lily McCarthy (Year 10)

JNR Girls Runner Up - Gwen Kingi (Year 9)

JNR Boys Champion - Ben Eady (Year 10)

JNR Boys Runner Up - Carson Fletcher (Year 10)

SNR Girls Champion - Romie Dargaville (Year 11)

SNR Girls Runner up - Annie Perrett (Year 11)

SNR Boys Champion - Austin Court (Year 12)

SNR Boys Runner Up - Walter Wiki (Year 11)



Its Kool to be Kind



Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Justina Lady-Burke

3m · October 29

It was the senior's last week of timetabled classes before they started their exams and the Welfare Student Leaders Kayla and Pavelyn wanted to end it on a positive note:

"Putting the 'I' in kindness was a little idea sent to us by Ms Fletcher to get students together. This also contributed to our own Staff Appreciation Week because we wanted to show the teachers and staff at our school that their efforts do not go unnoticed. Overall we just wanted to end our school year as seniors on a great note!"

-Kayla Speed



Irihāpeti & Friends Concert

This piece started as a Year 10 composition-process learning tool, but it became too complicated with so many working on it. I was keen to finish it so I simplified it for a smaller group of musicians.

Our class started with a basic analysis of Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and we took the title, some ideas about how he used his harmony, and his little motifs, as our inspiration. He oro iti mai i te pō – a little music from the night, Coromandel Bush style, is a narrative that starts with Papatuanuku's heartbeat and breath, interspersed with a chant.

This is followed by a harmonic progression in the first section, which works on a four-bar repeated phrase, representing Papatuanuku's breathing. The harpsichord sound also represents the twinkling stars from the realm of Rangi-nui. Rangi created melody and Papa gave us rhythm, so this music sits between them both.

Over this structure is a semi-improvised soundscape using taonga puoro, and you will hear insects scuttling and scratching, represented by the cellophane, and day birds settling as night birds come out.

The clock strikes midnight. I used the audience to create the rainstorm by rubbing hands, clicking fingers, and patting their legs. Tāwhirimātea, the god of weather, and Ao Pakarea, the god of thunder, have an argument, shown with the pumona and putorino.

The wind is created with spinning instruments, and thunder with the cymbal. The Coromandel has a lot of landslides in bad weather, and there is one as the storm stops. Then we work our way back to morning and a final chant. The last sounds we hear are water droplets on a tent, created by a ping pong ball being dropped on the harpsichord strings between the hitchpins and the casing.

Pyper Lydell (Year 10)

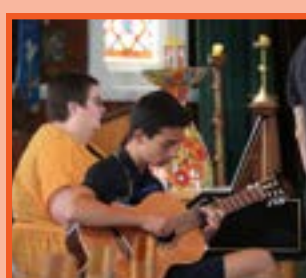
Opening chant:

It's been a long day for the sun
So now let him rest and be
ready for the next day
As the sun sets for the night
May the moon guide us
through the dark
The call of the owls
The call of the crickets
The call of the possums
The scream of the pigs
May they all rise for the night
He ra roa mo Tamanui te- Ra
A, me okioki ia ki tana rua, kia
rite ai mo aapoopoo
Kia to te ra
Ka ara mai Hina, hei kaiarahi i
te po
Ka tangi te ruu
Ka kitaa nga kirikiti
Ka keke nga paihamu

Closing chant:

It's been a long night for
Marama
So now let her rest and be
ready for the next night
As marama sets for the day
May the sun shine upon us
The call of the piwakawaka
The call of the cicada
The call of the tui
The laughter of children
May they all rise for the day
Me whakataa a Hina, kia rite
mo te po kei te heke mai
Kia too a Hina ki te rua
Ka paa mai ngaa hehe o
Tamanui te ra i
runga i a taatou
Ka karanga te piwakawaka
Te karanga a te kihikihi-kai
Te karanga a te tui
Te kata a nga tamariki
Kia aramai raatou i te ra

Pyper conducting the audience



Goldfields Students at Kura



Goldfields School principal Cam McKenzie, left, Teacher aide Whaea Megs, students Ahiora Mundy-Hatfield, 13, Kennedy Harting, 12, Matthew Yates, 12, Teacher Matua Caleb and Thames High School principal Michael Hart. ABSENT: Noah Grimshaw, 14. Photo: DAVIDA HOKATANGATA.

Fun in the Science Lab



Fun at the House Activities



Inclusion a focus for two Thames Valley schools

Helping students connect and feel included in their community is fundamental for two Thames Valley schools and their new partnership.

A new Goldfields School satellite class was opened at Thames High School on February 7, with four tamariki who transitioned to Year 9 from a satellite class at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School.

Goldfields satellite classes are set up in primary and secondary schools so students can receive the specialist teaching they require in regular school environments.

Thames High School principal Michael Hart said the way Goldfields School had distributed its classes around the area was "really awesome" because it was inclusive of all students.

"[Thames High School] pride ourselves as being part of the community, and vice versa."

Mr Hart said one of the Goldfields students was the brother of a current Thames High student, which gave a "whānau connection" within the school.

Reinforcing those close ties, Mr Hart said there were other Year 9 students who had also come from Thames South and recognised one of the Goldfields tamariki.

"So you have that continuity of relationships because of that inclusion in the community – it's really, really awesome."

The students' teacher, Matua Caleb, had been exploring opportunities for the tamariki to participate in specialty classes like drama, food or technology, Mr Hart said.

"[Matua Caleb] has been getting people coming to him and saying 'hey, it'd be really cool if your tamariki [would] come to our class'," Mr Hart said.

Building a good relationship between the schools was also important for Goldfields School Principal Cam McKenzie.

"We've got to want to be there, they've got to want us. Nothing goes forward unless that happens."

Mr McKenzie said satellite classes had been beneficial for students.

"You're raised together," he said. "They live, go to school [and] grow up in their community."

Students would not be transported all the way to Paeroa everyday, he said.

"When you cut down bus time you increase learning time."

Mr McKenzie said students could also get to know and be known by local businesses and one day start doing work experience.

Matua Caleb said he and teacher aide, Whaea Megs, had been getting students used to their new space and helping build their confidence for their speciality classes.

"We want to set them up. We want them to succeed rather than just doing heaps."

The tamariki didn't like big crowds, but introduced themselves in front of a whole staff meeting last year, Matua Caleb said.

"They were amazing."

The tamariki went to an assembly on their first day too, which was "chucking them in the deep end a bit", Matua Caleb said.

"But they are pretty resilient."



Thames High School's Rōpū Kapahaka, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata, proudly participated in the 2024 Hauraki Festival, hosted by Mātai Whetū Marae and held at kura, over two days (15-16 November).

The group received recognition for their exceptional performances, earning several accolades across multiple categories. With marks ranging from 85 to 100 across five judges, all feedback was uplifting and encouraging.

Key Achievements:

Intermediate Open Section:

- Runner-up in **Waiata Tira**
- 1st place in **Mootetea**

Intermediate Hauraki Section:

- Runner-up in **Waiata Tira**

Individual Achievements:

- Kaitaataki Taane **Harris Elliot-Hogg (Year 12)** received an outstanding score of 100 from 1 of 4 judges.
- Kaitaataki Wahine **Waimaarie Reynolds-Kokiri (Year 13)** earned a top mark of 95.

In addition to their performances, the Rōpū Kapahaka featured the Rōpū Tuuhono Tetekura, led by **Whaea Tina**, **Whaea Roanne**, and **Absalom Turoa**. This special team took on the important role of caring for and catering to the Kaumatua Rōpū throughout the festival, ensuring a successful and smooth experience for all participants.

This year's involvement in the Hauraki Festival showcased the talent, dedication, and cultural commitment of both the performers and the wider support team. It also reinforced the cultural legacy of Te Puna o Te Pito Mata at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga.

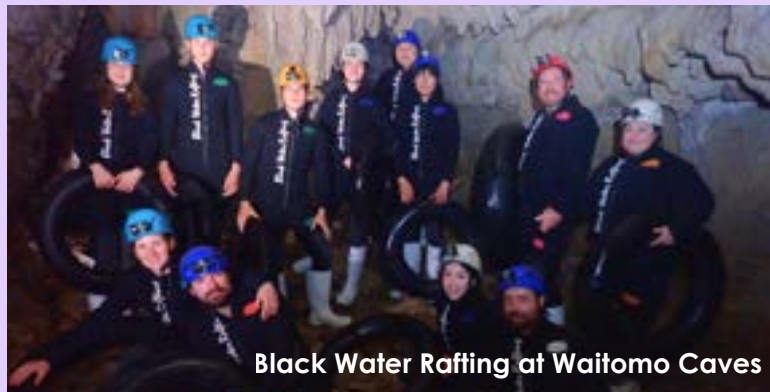
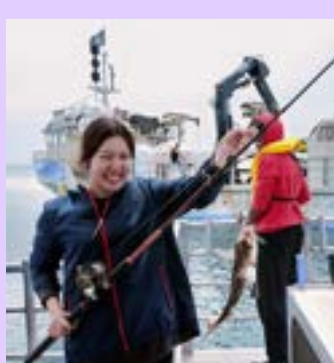
A special thanks goes to **Johnson (Reha) Waatene** and **Jackie** for their tireless work in helping to make this event a success.

-Whaea Rawinia

Te Reo Māori Kaiako HOD



International Student Memories





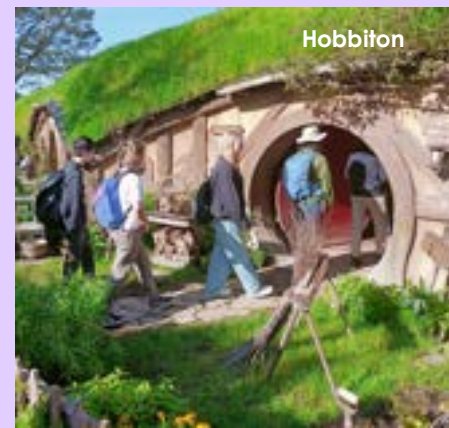
Cooking to say thank you to staff



Geysers in Rotorua



Hot Water Beach



Hobbiton



Ngā Pou Tikanga / Our Values

04 THE VALLEY PROFILE, October 23, 2024

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

Education

ADVERTORIAL

THS unveils visual tool to promote core values

Since 2018, the values or Tikanga at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuaeranga/Thames High School have been a guiding force in shaping the school community.

These values—Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Mātauranga, Whakamana, and Whakapono—have played a vital role in fostering positive relationships among staff and students, and creating an inclusive, supportive environment.

Now the school is taking a significant step forward in reinforcing these values by introducing a new visual tool.

This tool is designed to help both staff and students recognise and live by the school's values in their daily interactions.

According to the Deputy Principal, Mr Ashforth, who oversees the Positive Behaviour for Learning School-Wide (PB4L) framework, introducing these visual cues will encourage students (taiohi) to live and breathe these values.

"The process of designing these motifs took over 18 months and involved consultation with the student body, staff, and local iwi.



Photo of 2024 Thames High School head students standing with Deputy Principals Penny Keet and Chris Ashforth along with Principal Michael Hart. Photo: SUPPLIED

"We are thrilled to see these values in images we can unpack, explain and weave into our curriculum and everyday lives here at the school.

"I am sure these will grow with our school and community and lead to our students achieving their true potential."

The designing of these icons began by incorporating elements from the school's symbol, or tohu, and adding visual references to the

school environment.

These include the wharenui, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata (The Wellspring of Potential) and the original bell tower, which now stands in the school's front garden.

The designs feature symbols such as Poutama (sun rays) to represent "the climb" or striving for excellence and harakeke weaving is used in a few of the motifs to show that each of these values interconnect.

The Tohu symbolises the local landscape, featuring Te Puke o Raka Maomao, Te Kowhatu whakairi a Ngātoroitangi (Table mountain) and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana o Hauraki.

It also represents the land on which Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuaeranga is built, a land gifted by Ngāti Maru for the purpose of educating our people.

This initiative highlights the school's commitment to integrating tikanga and these visual tools are expected to serve as a powerful reminder for the entire school to continue embracing its core values.

- Supplied by Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuaeranga
Thames High School



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeke rawa ki te taumata
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Ngā Pou Tikanga / Our Values

Keeping our Tikanga tight



Manaakitanga

Everyone belongs, everyone matters, everyone has potential.

Whakamana

We build each other up, supporting identity & enhancing mana.

Whanaungatanga

We build connected & collaborative relationships that acknowledge & embrace our community.

Mātauranga

We deepen our knowledge & understanding to empower learning.

Whakapono

We are honest & show integrity in all we do.



Our Tohu/Symbol

Our Tohu was designed by a Thames High School student Claudia Long in collaboration with Tahjonelle Kaitamaki-Topia.

Sports Awards



Thames High School Events and Celebrations
Published by Justina Lady-Burke
- a day ago - October 25

Last night's Sports Awards was an amazing celebration of our young athletes and their incredible achievements in 2024!

A big thank you to our guest speaker, Joe Murray from the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes, who brought along the Meads Cup and inspired us with his words of wisdom!

Huge congratulations to our students who earned FULL sporting laurels:

- Maia Whitney – Swimming
- Nova Sawyer – Swimming
- Jess Rendall – Cricket
- Ellie Johnston – Gymnastics
- Ffin Owen – Athletics

Congratulations to Taylor Menzies and Cailleigh Polpoi, who took home the AMP Cup for their overall contribution to sport in 2024!

And a special mention of our Sports Student Leader Austin Court, who won so many cups and awards that even if he had two functioning arms, he wouldn't have been able to carry them all! 🏆🏆





WOW what an amazing group of young people we have here tonight: 108 awards winners, 253 certificates, 22 sporting codes.

Congratulations to all of you and also other team members who have been alongside the award winners.

I'm Carolyn Green and as the teacher in charge of Sport, I have a large list of helpers that I would like to show gratitude to tonight. Our Kapahaka Rōpū - ngā mihi, Hazy and the Jays, our audio and lighting team, our communication extraordinaire Justina, Burtons Catering, Aeroview Garden Centre, Flowers on Pollen, The Aviator Experience - Thank you to all of these groups and businesses for their support tonight to make it a special evening for everyone.

Our School Leadership Team, The Thames High School Student Support Trust, teachers in charge of sport, coaches, managers, referees, organisers, drivers, first-aiders, uniform washers, snack makers, orange peelers, photographers, water bottle carriers and even that person that reminds our students to get out of bed on time. You are all part of our sporting whānau that we celebrate tonight. 2025 vacancies for all these roles can be discussed with Tess at any time. We would love to have you join us.

Joe, its been lovely to see this wonderful giving man you have grown into. I did find some details about your sports awards when you were year 13, I'm not sure if you remember but you gained a Sporting Laurel for Thames Valley U18 Rugby and Thames Valley Basketball and also for being part of the Hillary Challenge team and now you have the Meads Cup - your rugby career did start back while you were here at THS.

I would also like to congratulate our Head of Sport and Head of House Senior Leaders, Austin Court, Nia Wilson, Ora Wiki and Connor Lyon - You have done a great job this year along with your house leaders. Thank you.

To our awards winners, There are so many reasons that you are here tonight and have shone brightly within your chosen sports, it is your athletic skills, your passion, your determination, your self-belief, your personality, your time management, your resilience, your commitment, your communication, your friends and teammates, your whānau support. Sports give you so much more than just the game time. As a parent, I know how much 'these' people do and sometimes sacrifice to allow 'these' young people to access sport. So thank you Tess, our Sport Co-ordinator, every student who comes to see you about signing up has become your number 1 priority to make sure they get to participate. You have gone above and beyond for our students. Thank you. You are such a big part of why our sports people are shining brightly tonight. Just yesterday you excited told me that the student's feedback from the Sport Waikato Voice of Rangatahi showed that in 2022, 'student satisfaction in sport' was only 19%. This year, that has tripled to 64% satisfaction in sport. Tess, this is due to you, your encouragement, your connection with our students, your determination to improve on the previous year, your seeking out more opportunities, updating sports uniforms and advocating for sports to be more accessible by removing financial barriers. You do this all 'for the love of the game'.

Congratulations and Thank you all for being part of Sport at Thames High School. My challenge to you all - in 2025 say 'yes' to joining up to an event or team. You will gain far more skills than just the game.

-Ms Green's speech on the night















Senior Prize Giving



On Wednesday, 30 October, Thames High School gathered to celebrate the achievements of over 120 taiohi / young people. The 2024 Senior Prize Giving honored students for their academic accomplishments, as well as premier awards in sports, arts, cultural activities, and service to the school and community.

The guest speaker, former student Keenan Alexander, shared his inspiring journey. After a tragic accident during a rugby game in 2016 left him paralyzed, Keenan's message to the Year 13 leavers centred on resilience, self-worth, and being proud of one's chosen path. His story of overcoming adversity deeply resonated with the audience. Alongside Keenan, other distinguished guests included Hon. Scott Simpson (MP for Coromandel) and Eric and Mark Bowater, who presented the Stephen Bowater Memorial S

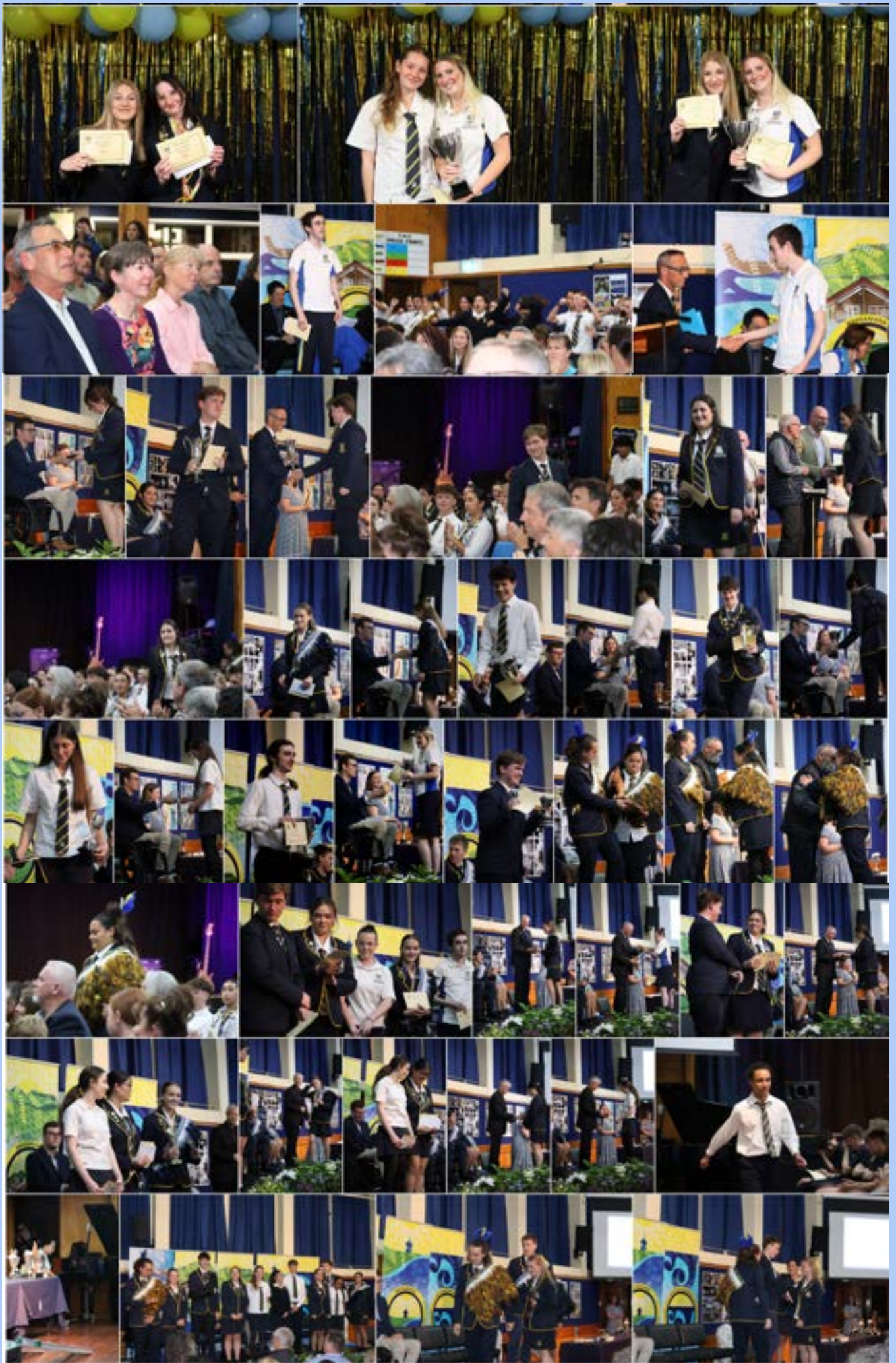
cholarship in memory of their son and brother, Stephen Bowater, a former student who tragically passed away in his second year at Auckland University.

The 2024 Head Students, Cassandra Duthie and Koen Liddell, captivated the audience with speeches reflecting their unique styles—Cassandra with eloquence and Koen with humour—as they recounted their time at Thames High School. They warmly welcomed the newly appointed Head Students, Izzy Fitzsimons and Harris Elliot-Hogg, who will lead a larger Senior Student Leader team of 24 students in 2025, selected from 40 applicants.

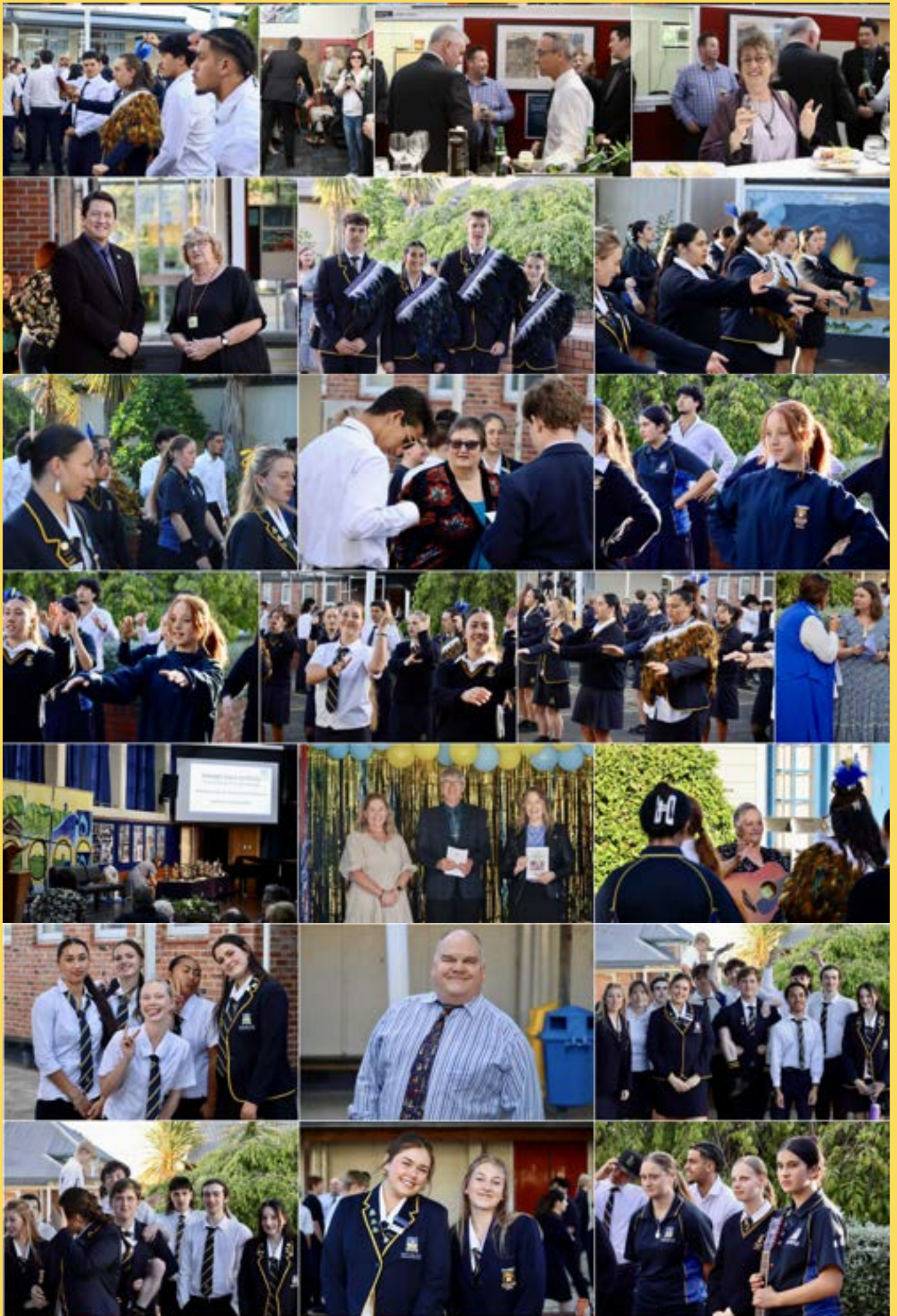
It was a night of pride, inspiration, and reflection, celebrating both the past accomplishments and the promising future of Thames High School's young leaders.

Blog Post









Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Jordan tops science, maths and dux honours

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It wasn't Jordan Wheeler's aim at the start of the year to become the Thames High School dux for 2024, but that's exactly what he did.

The year-13 student was very surprised and "slightly apprehensive" about going on stage to receive his award at the school prizegiving evening recently, he told *The Profile*.

"I am not a fan of being the centre of attention," he said.

Even though he preferred to stay out of the spotlight, Jordan said he was very proud and happy this was the result of his hard work.

"This year I was aiming for as many excellences as I could get."

Jordan said he had 31 excellence credits so far, with a lot more to come from external exams.

"I had a lot of great teachers this year and supportive family and friends," he said.

The fact all his subjects were ones he enjoyed also "helped keep me motivated".

But the top achiever also snapped up a few more notable awards.

"Even if I had not won dux however, I still would have been very happy that I came



Thames High School dux for 2024 Jordan Wheeler celebrates his win.

Photo: SUPPLIED

first in all of the sciences."

Jordan managed to achieve top spot victories in biology, chemistry and physics and was awarded the Boyce Cup for Top Science Student.

"I really like all these subjects because they involve solving problems and finding a definite

answer," he said.

However, if he had to pick just one favourite, it would be physics because it involved "the least amount of writing", he said.

But it doesn't end there.

Jordan also claimed distinction in mathematics with cal-

culus and was awarded The University of Waikato Ko Te Tangata Schools Leavers Scholarship.

Next year Jordan will head to The University of Waikato to study computer science, and he said the scholarship would be a great help toward his accom-

modation costs.

"The logic and the problem solving [for computer science] appeal to me and I might end up in a field like cyber security."

But Jordan really valued time with his mates.

"Even though I did a lot of study this year, I made sure I had time to hang out with my friends."

Earlier in the year, he said they had a great time hiking The Pinnacles track in the Kauaeranga Valley together.

Jordan said after exams he planned to put time into improving his fitness.

He earned a black belt in Ki-a-ido Ryu martial arts when he was 12, but since then "keeping fit hasn't been a priority", he said.

If Jordan could leave a piece of advice with next year's senior students, it was to "study hard, but don't let it take over your entire school year".

"Doing well is much easier if you don't leave it until the last minute," he said.

"Make sure you leave some time for social activities with friends."

Meanwhile, Maia Harrison was named Proxime Accessit to dux.

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga Thames High School



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeke rawa ki te taumata
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

CELEBRATING SUCCESS: Senior Prize Giving

Stephen Bowater Memorial Scholarship



Nla Wilson

Business One Trophy

For outstanding achievement & commitment to a business in any field



Jacob Wenhold

Dux for 2024



Jordan Wheeler

Proxime Accessit to Dux for 2024



Maia Harrison

Toyota Scholarship



Abby Greenwood

Te Rangatahi e rangi i nga tira Award

Waimarie
Reynolds-Kokiri

Hetherington Cup for Citizenship



Ella Smith

Class of 1992 Leavers Cup



Ari Reed

Bruce Belk Memorial Cup Hetherington Cup for Citizenship



Jacob Rush

Te Rangatahi e rangi i nga tira Award



Harris Elliot-Hogg

Stephen Hadley Award



Flin Owen

McConnell Cup



Austin Court

Maureen Coakley Cup



Ellie Johnston

AMP Cup



Cailleigh Polpoi

AMP Cup



Taylor Menzies

Rōpu 9AGMK



Rōpu 9DMCN



Rōpu 9RCGY



Rōpu 9HNEU



Rōpu 10AMJR

Miya Costello	Obe Fraser	Elias Graham	Blaise Houghton	Jake Hudson	Lily Hudson	William Jensen	Taylor Lamont
Bella McCulloch	Shaun Mita	Kaimanu Mita-Makin	Cole Myer	Whetu Murray-Hallo	Zach Paynter	Lily Robertson	Jake Robinson
Taaliyah Royal-Wilson	Lianna Sanchez	Tayla Shortland-Maddren	Reana Taverner	Lani Te kata	Trisha Twigley	Mr Major (Teacher/Kaitiaki)	

Absent: Natara Keane

Rōpu 10DDIX

Raelin Alvi	Jessica Atrill	Eliza Carter	Toni Davis	Arleca Douglas	Tyrah-Lee Feilo-Eketone	Emrik Fredell Neider
Jodie Louden	Joshua Malligan	Tori McDonald	Jack McLaren	Keagan McRae	Charlotte Parker	Zepplin Parkin
Zaydee Prasad	Karamea Racey-Williams	Marilyn Simon Joseph	Ryan West	Chevy Wilcox	Mr Dix (Teacher/Kaitiaki)	

Absent: Caleb Burbery, Martin Dimple, Joshua Malligan, Renee Oliver

Rōpu 10RALN



Rōpu 10HFRG



Rōpu A1



Rōpu A2



Rōpu A3



Rōpu D1



Rōpu D3



Rōpu D2



Rōpu H1



Pepa
Baumeister



Israel
Black



Jep
Donaldson



Gabrielle
Gage-Maddox



Devon
Hodson



Tj
Judd



Liam
Michael



Jamie
Moxsom



Tai
Roberts



Lexis
Rohlfach



Yuauha
Sano



Lawron
Waite



Mr Cho
(Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Abigail Maddern, Maximus Maddern, Trey Maddern, Jahziyeth Oka-Gage, Tijuana Taylor

Rōpu H2



Sienna
Batie



Ashley
Bloor



Dylan
Bloor



Austin
Court



Harmony
Fry



Immanuel
Huwald



Johnathan
Kohn



Kyah
Lyon



Jay
Majurey



Ritsuki
Niwa



Chloe
Paynter



Waimaarie
Reynolds-Kokiri



Shannara
Smook



Anja
Watling



Jaselle
Wilkinson



Mathew
Wilson



Lorenzo
Yamamoto

Absent: Juli Dalzer, Abbey Moberley, Sasha Bao, Kyziah Timothy-Corry, Ms Emery (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Rōpu R1



Rōpu R2



Rōpu H3



Isayah
Boyd



Izzy
Fitzsimons



Lukas
Fowler



Hunter
Growden



Keira
Hall



Ellie
Johnston



Saxon
Knight



Tate
Leatham



Rebekah
Le Roux



Zephyr
Morrison



Yuna
Ogura



Ffin
Owen



Ari
Reed



Lincoln
Rodgers



Boston
Savage



Taj
Shiriwato



William
Steel



Dyadre
Toko-Watene



Ezekiel
Van der Lee



Ariana
Welch-Paki



Mr Baverstock
(Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Cody Keane

Rōpu R3



Ava
Arnold



Livien
Borucka



Evelyn
Darwall



Simon
Darwall



Tayo
Elusanmi



Eikura
Emery



Harmony
Fictor



Joe
Hayward



Annabelle
Hutchinson-Wong



Charlie
Lyon



Misaki
Maeda



Amber
Martin



Tennyson
Mercer



Tayler
Richards



Ella
Richmond



Sophie
Scott



Julius
Smith



Rose
Thomsen



Tamihana
Timothy



Alison
Tomsett



Ella
Tosun



Amiria
Turoa



Kairah
Turoa



Mr Rogers
(Teacher/Kaitiaki)



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Football - Senior Girls
2024



Back Row: Elbe Johnson, Ail Reed, Annabette Inuhoangahanga, Catherine Dublin, Nadia Keshan
2nd Row: Ashlee Greenwood (Manager), Elbe Fayrer, Ceryn Hambour, Paula Bat, Kaiti Hall, Egan Hambour (Coach)
Front Row: June Thiner, Jess Rendell, Abby Greenwood, Helen Sotacka, Caitlin Jones, Annie Penell, Gabrielle Gage-Madden



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

EARS
2024



Back Row: Carla Chaffey
2nd Row: Mimi Aluado, Abbey McInerney, Gabrielle Gage-Madden, Sophie Whyte, Nana Wood, Arja Walling
3rd Row: Maimery Poy, Jacob Bush, El Leffell, Taya Buearini, Payer Liddell, Sharonda Smoak, Kyle Fruch (EARS Leader)
Front Row: T. Judd, Ewan Liddell, Paveyn Ross, Kaiya Speed, Oia Wili, Maki Rankin



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Basketball - Junior Boys Blue
2024



Back Row: Katelyn Price (Manager), Daniel Burchell, Cole Hall, Takalia Thomas, Brandon Berger, Ross White, Ben Wills (Coach)
Front Row: Nathaniel Topik, Carson Fletcher, Oia Fraser, Barry Mossman, Samuel Isidoro



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Duke of Edinburgh
2024



Back Row: Carson Fletcher, Jack McCallan, Taya Bue (Teacher)
Front Row: Taya de la Rue, Zara Chamberlain, Sophie Whyte



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Active As
2024



Back Row: Sam Roberts, Hunter O'Keefe, Austin Court, Mityah Reys, Ben Owen, Tessa Wills (Teacher)
Front Row: Carolyn Green (Teacher), Oia Wili, Jade Louden, Kay Rasmussen, Xavier Brown



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Basketball - Junior Boys Combined
2024



Back Row: Ross White, Ryan Tyson, Brandon Berger, Cole Hall, Daniel Burchell
2nd Row: Katelyn Price (Manager), Carson Fletcher, Bruce Houghton, Hunter O'Keefe, Oia Fraser, Takalia Thomas, Ben Wills (Coach)
Front Row: Nathaniel Topik, Taha Topik, Barry Mossman, Jason Peck, Samuel Isidoro



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeoranga

Debate Club
2024



Back Row: Immanuel Kurewai, Loree Yamamoto, Oscar Zhang
Front Row: Felix Wilson, Jacob Rush, Keren Liddell



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeoranga

Volleyball Senior Boys
2024



Back Row: Ezekiel Paul, Keren Liddell, Maile Russell, Yamilza Anderson-Wakahoehoe
Front Row: Elva Cleaver, Luke Ball, Troy Costello



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeoranga

Volleyball Senior Girls
2024



Back Row: Crystal Hambro, Uken Bonchis, Nadia Newton
Front Row: Ella Smith, Caitlin Jones, Karani Astala



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeoranga

Basketball - Junior Girls
2024



Back Row: Pearl Jay Newton, Lukisa McCullough, Beth McCullough, Tealynah Brynne Wilson, Phil Taylor (Coach)
Front Row: Oshia Karing, Samuel Kava, Alana Taylor, Takatima Alia White, Danyla Shullin



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeoranga

Get2GO
2024



Back Row: Jack McLaren, Bill Edwards (Teacher), Wase Houghton
Front Row: Chloe Smith, Jade Louder, Ryan West, Danyla Shullin, Wyatt Doherty



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeoranga

Basketball - Senior Boys
2024



Back Row: Dylan Cameron, Ezekiel Paul, Yamilza Anderson-Wakahoehoe, Hunter Snowden, Derin Hall
Front Row: Welina Kingi, Coby Hendrix, Waiata, Hayden Cameron, Lukisa Foster



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Tennis
2024



Back Row: Annabelle Hutchinson-Wing, Troy Costello, Lacey Skutt
Front Row: Elara Muri, Brooke Aluh, Paula Doo, Ella Johnston, Jodie Louder



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Touch Junior Boys
2024



Back Row: Lucien Donaldson, Rocky Tahakarama
Front Row: Archie Bave, Max White, Caman Fletcher



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Volleyball Senior Girls Development
2024



Back Row: Jess Bendall, Thomas Rapp, Lorraine Mahiyiri, Masi Nibbel
Front Row: Aditya Palitkar, Jahn Shree, Divyen Lee, Wilkeson Jerni, Alexei Agudelo Pareda



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Touch Junior Girls
2024



Back Row: Riley Te Raki-Coleman, Alana Taylor, Olivia Lamont, Sophie Savage
Front Row: Amalia-Rose Bennett, Jodie Louder, Takaina Rita Wale, Eva Ellis, Gwen King



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Touch Senior Mixed
2024



Back Row: Harley Smith, Darby Tapia, Mueli Wai
2nd Row: Ma Owen, Cilla Stone, Ellen Jubb, Isayah Boyd, Luke Graham, David Hanson (Coach)
Front Row: Abbey Mabbett, Cathryn Fulford, Taylor Marples, Olivia Papine, Senia Balle



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Wal/BOP SS Athletics
2024



Back Row: Alana Taylor, Isayah Boyd, Ma Owen, Mueli Wai
Front Row: Jess Bendall, Austin Court, Ella Johnston

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Tutoring
2024



Back Row: Ella Toun, Caitlin Jones, Tony Flemons, Tahira McCull, Ella Richmond
Front Row: Abby Greenwald, Jacob Bush, Maki Karkson, Parvati Rana, Eren Lohani



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Student Council
2024



Back Row: Chloe Smith, Sophie Whyte, Brianna Muir
2nd Row: Chloe Bergersen, Caglan Fletcher, Terenyon Rarick, Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong
Front Row: Abby Greenwald, Eren Lohani, Maki Karkson, Maki Karkson, Cassandra Duffie



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

2024



Thames High Troupe Kaitiaki Street Party



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Wal/BOP SS Swimming
2024



Neva Stappier, Lorenzo Tannamato, Maki Whitley



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Badminton Juniors
2024



Back Row: Green King, Jodie Louder, Isabella Harold, Ailyn Garry, Taha Bovey-Coles, Eva Ellis
2nd Row: Lily McCarthy, Cae O'Hall, Ben Body, Caglan Fletcher, Laura Black, Stigley Martin, Chloe Bergersen
3rd Row: Maki Whitley, Daniel Burchell, Lincoln Davidson, Takala Turner, Rocky Ishikawa, Fynn Pymon, Max White, Jason Pratt
Front Row: Evelyn Ahi, Lily Davidson, Cherry Wilcox, Frankie Marshall, Grace Miller, Wyatt O'Leary, Elara Kuni



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Waikato SS Cross Country
2024



Jack McLellan, Rod Edwards (Coach), Blake Houghton



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Badminton Seniors
2024



Back Row: Taj Shetwafare, Ellie Johnston, Masey Williams, Annie Penzell

2nd Row: Thompson Ross, Ollie Stone, Troy Costello, Sam Bailey, Finn Owen

3rd Row: Matthew Wilson, Isayah Boyd, Kasey Giddell, Austin Court, Aidan Murphy, Jaz Denington, Luke Mills

Front Row: Anja Welling, Evelyn Dorwell, Elura Emery, Leobrook Makupita, Rania Dargaville Rahua, Abbygail Patterson, Doreen Leal



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Golf
2024



Back Row: Hagley Harris, Carson Hetchel, Andrew Stone

2nd Row: Lincoln Donalson, Alf Donalson, Finn Owen, Chris Ekins, Daniel Burchell

Front Row: Rania Dargaville Rahua, Ellie Johnston, Taj Shetwafare, Ollie Stone, Annie Penzell



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Bowls
2024



Back Row: Mia Wilson, Ryan Lyon, Alf Reed


Front Row: Rania Dargaville Rahua, Nadia Hewson, Tai Roberts, Ceryda Namburt, Annie Penzell



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Rugby Representatives
2024



Back Row: Danny Tapia, Isayah Boyd, Finn Owen

Front Row: Walter Wai, Leina Donalson, Callagh Phipps, Taylor Merritts, Harley Harris



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Secondary School Cross Country
2024



Back Row: Jess Randall, Milla Whitney, Carson Hetchel, Calli Muir, Zara Chamberlain, Amber Raynard

2nd Row: Jack McLaren, Matthew Wilson, Masey Williams, Troy Costello, Finn Owen, Rod Edwards (Coach)

Front Row: Chloe South, Ranyli Wossman, Ellie Johnston, Austin Court, Gracie Miller, Lily Donalson



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Show Jumping Team
2024



Nadia Wood, Amber Hunt, Bella Hunt



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Netball - Junior Gold
2024



Back Row: Lily McCarthy, Olivia Lafferty, Right Courtney, Tereasa Harvie, Kelly Souva (Coach)
Front Row: Savannah Gabele, Frankie Harvie, Gracie Miller, Lily Donohue, Aneka Harvie



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Netball - Senior A
2024



Back Row: Lauren White, Mimi Hinton, Cassandra Duffie
2nd Row: Abigail Patterson, Oria White, Christa Peart, Taylor Marston, Fannie Dargaville, Sarah
Front Row: Ryan Lyon, Callagh Polson, Mia Wilson, Abbey Mabbetley, Michelle Tupper (Coach)
Absence: Emma Lyon (Manager)



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga



Ilin Owen
NZSS Athletics - 2024



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga



Abby Greenwood
BOT Student Representative - 2024



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

TV Swimming
2024



Back Row: Lavanga Tiamanaki, Austin Chubb, Sarah Tiamanaki
Front Row: Maki Whithy, Nova Sawyer, Lexie Robbuck



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Netball - Junior Development
2024



Back Row: Glenn Hollings, Lexi Thomas
2nd Row: Sarah Kaur, Cass Chubb, Laura Bluff, Ruby Te Raki Coleman, Elaine Tukuhoga (Coach)
Front Row: Charly Black, Ilii Wainford, Eira Wai, Taylor Lamont, Tyrahia Peto-Bellone



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

NZSS Swimming
2024



Nova Sawyer, Maki Whithy



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Chess
2024



Back Row: Immanueli Wilekai, Ruth Wilson (Teacher in Charge)
Front Row: Felix Wilson, Kiri Ichikawa, Ivy Mobery



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Piano Duo
2024



Anna Gubik, Eliza Carter



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Rugby - 7s Boys
2024



Back Row: Max White, Hunter Bell, Tim Pahl, Boyd Ewan
Front Row: Taitan Tapia, Carson Fletcher, Archie Blythe



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Rugby - 7s Girls
2024



Back Row: Rebekah Te Kura, Ruby Te Rangi-Coleman, Taylora Savage
2nd Row: Laura Daniels, Olivia Lomant, Anna Arnold, Emma Balle, Takapene Elio Wale
Front Row: Amalia Rose Heneke, Jodie Loudon, Calleigh Pappi, Taylor Wendes, Gwen King



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Rugby - Boys Youth
2024



Back Row: Cohen Hagan, Takalia Turner, Max White
2nd Row: Boyd Dean, Rocky Tuohakanga, Whetu Murray-Mahia, Hunter Bell, Tim Pahl, Rod Edwards (Coach)
Front Row: Taitan Tapia, Archie Blythe, Carson Fletcher, W-D Hall, Kingston Maraho



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Rugby - Junior Girls
2024



Jodie Loudon, Ruby Te Rangi-Coleman, Emilee Savage, Gwen King

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuāeranga

Rugby - Senior Girls
2024



Back Row: Laura Donohue, King Kinohi
Front Row: Takahira-Rita Waka, Sherina Kaha, Colleigh Papoi, Taylor Henders

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuāeranga

Rugby - U18 7s
2024



Back Row: Taka Leatham, Benjamin Pharo, Ollie Moore
2nd Row: Nathan Savage, Iyannah Bayle, Ewan Liddell, Jon Liddell (Coach)
Front Row: Hakey Watts, Finn Owen, Hunter Greenwood, Walter Wili, Welton Kingi

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuāeranga

Rugby - U18s
2024



Back Row: Taka Leatham, Benjamin Pharo, Ollie Moore
2nd Row: Welton Kingi, Jacob Werhild, Nathan Savage, Iyannah Bayle, William Beverstock, Jon Liddell (Coach)
Front Row: Walter Wili, Hunter Greenwood, Ewan Liddell, Finn Owen, Hakey Watts



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuāeranga

Senior Leaders
2024



Back Row: Parvitya Kivi, Chloé Wili, Maria Wili, Holly Pogo, Sophia Speed, Caitlin Jones
2nd Row: Waimarie Reynolds-Rutll, Mia Wilson, Austin Court, T. J. Judd, Connor Lyon, Myle Horman
Front Row: Izzy Plummer, Abby Greenwood, Cassandra Duffie, Koen Liddell, Hunter Greenwood



Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuāeranga

Senior Head Leaders
2024



Hunter Greenwood, Cassandra Duffie, Koen Liddell, Abby Greenwood

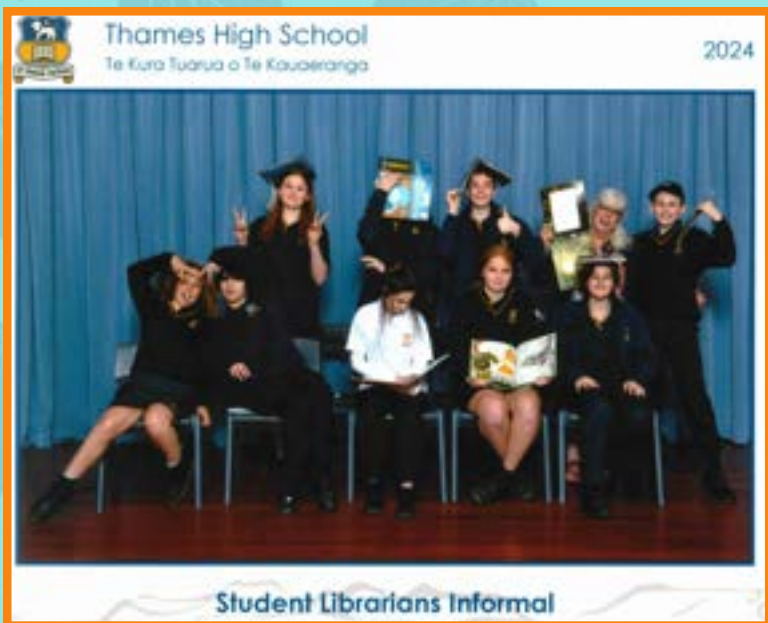
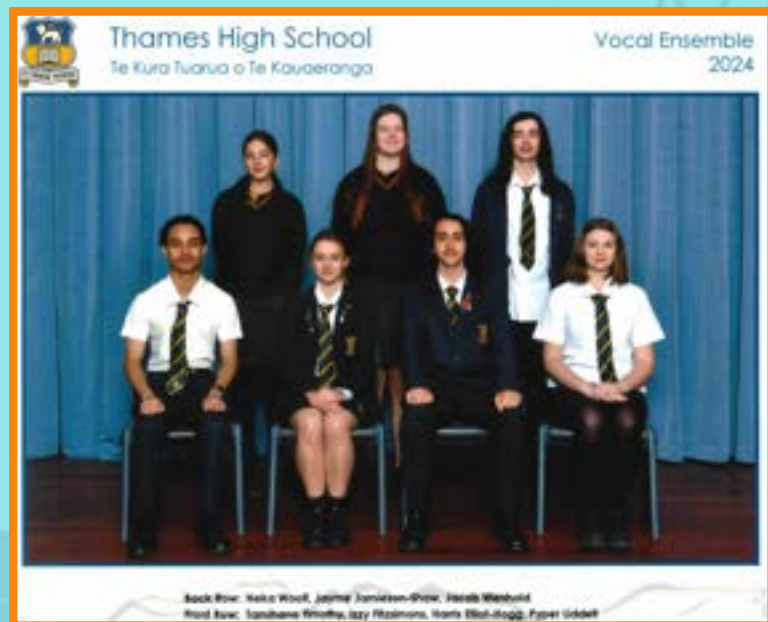
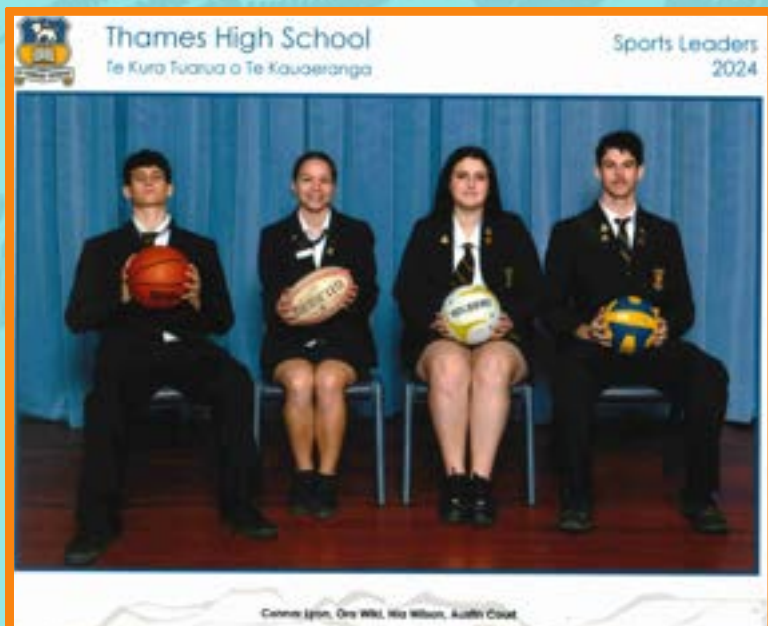


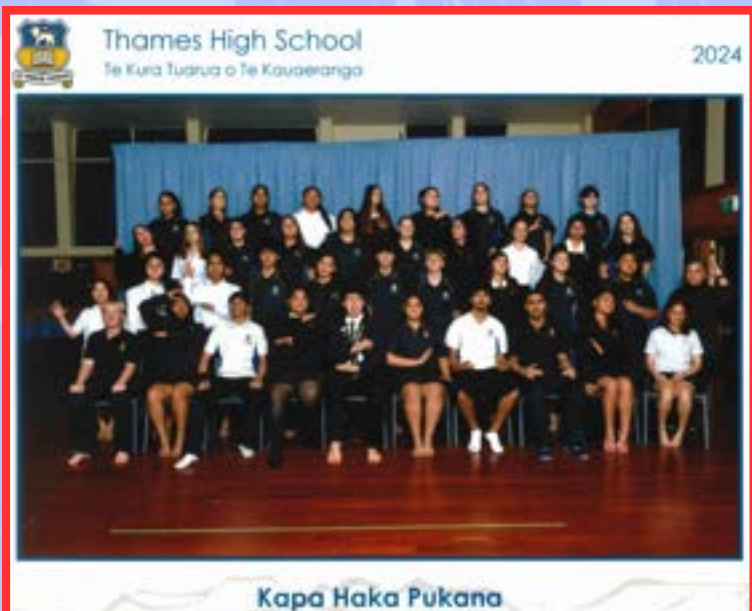
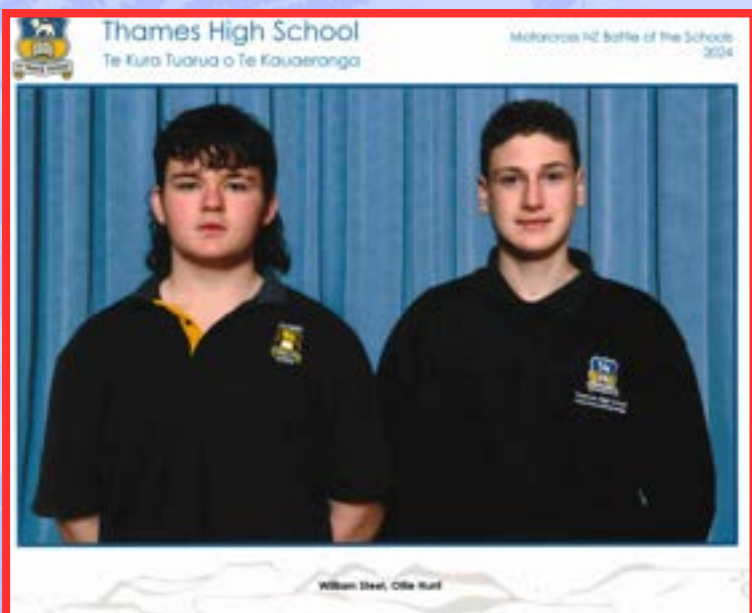
Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuāeranga

2024



Rugby - U18s Informal







Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Hockey - Mixed Team
2024



Back Row: Felix Wilson, Elie Johnston, Brindle Jones, Anna Farrell, Keegan McEne
2nd Row: Alicia Costello (Manager), Laura Bluff, EJ Jagger, Will Penrell, Izzy Costello, Aidan Murphy, Roman Smith, Helen Cottle (Coach)
Front Row: Keri Kane, Ella Carter, Miya Costello, Ewan Liddell, Lily McCarthy, Gracie Miller, Geoff Cottle (Coach)



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Hazy & The Jays
2024



Harle Elliot-Rogge, Jacob Warfield, Jacob Ruff, Izzy Fitzsimons



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Gymnast
2024



Elie Johnston, Maja Whitney



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Enviro Group
2024



Back Row: Piper Liddell, Ella Richmond
Front Row: Caitlin Jones, Neka Woolf, Ella Hall



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Climate Summit
2024



Caitlin Jones, Piper Liddell, Neka Woolf



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Ball Committee
2024



Back Row: Izzy Fitzsimons, Maja Whitney, Jacob Ruff, Ella Wilson, Harle Elliot-Rogge
2nd Row: Jacyden Morris, EJ Jagger, Keri Kane, Hunter Greenwood, Aidan Murphy, Kryn Currow (Teacher)
Front Row: Paveyn Ross, Kayla Speed, Abby Greenwood, Gracie Miller, Caitlin Jones



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāwharanga

Football - Junior Boys
2024



Back Row: Zander Cumow, Fynn Paki, Tevaya Yamaiaha
2nd Row: James Harvey (Assistant Coach), Daniel Juitheil, Jack McEwen, Wase Roughton, Daniel Kater, Kyril Cumow (Manager)
Front Row: Maki McLaren, Wylie Doherty, Ben Sady, Sam Ball, Jake Hudson, Eli Marshall, Dave Cumow (Coach)
Absent: Brian Ball (Assistant Coach)



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāwharanga

Football - Senior Boys
2024



Back Row: Semyell Eufenia, Lincoln Rodgers, Matthew Wilson, Denzin Hall, Rami Elah-Rogg
2nd Row: Kyril Cumow (Manager), Elva Clearwater, Troy Costello, Austin Court, Kean Sibbert, Daniel Hewlett, James Harvey (Coach)
Front Row: Taj Shepherson, Luke Hall, Ede Brown, Aidan Murphy, Jonathan Kato



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāwharanga

Football - Junior Girls
2024



Back Row: Taylor Lamont, Renzo Tawene, Ashlea Douglas, Simple Martin, Tashyah Royal Wilson
2nd Row: Shane Maje (Coach), Lily McCarthy, Tafi Davis, Tara Chandra-Rah, Sophie Shyle, Karames Ruyy-Wilsons, Tawar Brown (Coach)
Front Row: Tafi McDonald, Lucy Gage-Woodcock, Jessica KHR, Shuni Emery, Wylie Belvidell, Chae South, Lisa Barnett (Manager)



Back Row: Samuel Gador, Rowinia McLean, Sonya Brown, Dianna Phillips, Leanna Aldern, Gabe Davies
4th Row: Xavier Brown, Tessa Wath, Yunja Cho, Ann Hooper, Kylie Finch, Kathryn Linley-Transnewan, Cheryl Jordan, Eon Grant-Makie
3rd Row: Luke Devery, Shane Maje, Clive Nixon, Justina Lindner-Sulke, Michelle Supper, Rodney Edwards, David Harrison, Stephen Slaney, Kaewyn Grey
2nd Row: Taryn Slea, Lisa Barnett, Michelle Scoggins, Denna Sawyst, Sharon Stevenson, Jonah Colgry
Front Row: Ruth Hawes, Nancy Reed, Shatyn Baker, Penny Keat, Michael Hart, Chris Ashford, Jarrine Yelke, Carolyn Green, Pauline Managh
Absent: Chris Sutton, Robert Allen, Brendon Saverstock, Malcolm Bellon, Frances Creegman, Kyril Cumow, Jubel Emery, Chloe Ferguson, Jen Fletcher, Michelle Fry, Dianna Micher, Rodney Milner, Daniel Neufeld, Shannon Paki, Joel Patterson, Sam Rogers, Carolina Romero-Martos, Nichola Volce, Jesse Wahan, Kevin Heeney

Sports Awards

ATHLETICS

Austin Court H2EMY

Old Boys Challenge
Senior Boys Champion
Carswell Cup
Senior Boys 3000m Champion
Rudman Cup
Senior Boys 1500m Champion
Bailey Cup
Senior Boys 800m Champion

Wetere Kingi D2SCO

Watkin Memorial
Senior Boys Runner up

Isayah Boyd H3BAV

Galloway Memorial
Intermediate Boys Champion

Ffin Owen H3BAV

Thames High School Sports Club Trophy
Intermediate Boys Athletics Runner Up
Miller Cup
Intermediate Boys 1500m Champion
EG Brown Cup
Intermediate Boys 800m Champion

Lincoln Donaldson 10HFRG

RSA Cup
Junior Boys Champion

Tyler Smith 9RCGY

Thames High School Sports Club Trophy
Junior Boys Runner-Up

Luca Yamamoto 9HNEU

Morrisey Cup
Junior Boys 1500m Champion
McLeish Cup
Junior Boys 800m Champion

Abby Greenwood R1DVY

Buick Cup
Senior Girls Champion

(Joint) Ora Wiki - R2SLE /

Ella Smith -D2SCO
Danby Cup
Senior Girls Runner Up

Ellie Johnston H3BAV

Raewyn Cowles
Intermediate Girls Champion

Jess Rendall R2SLE

Whiteman Cup
Intermediate Girls Runner-Up

Alzora Taylor 9AGMK

Junior Champion Cup
Junior Girls Champion

Amber Rayment 9AGMK

Thames High School Sports Club Trophy
Junior Girls Athletics Runner-Up

Maia Whitney 9HNEU

Rex Pearson Cup
Junior Girls 300m Champion

CROSS COUNTRY

Austin Court H2EMY

Diamond Jubilee Shield
Senior Boys Champion
Boys Cross Country Gold Medal
Fastest time for Boys

Lorenzo Yamamoto H2EMY

Thames Goldfields Centennial Cup
Intermediate Boys Champion

Luca Yamamoto 9HNEU

Stewart Cup
Junior Boys Champion

Nane Becker A2PHL

Old Pupils Association Cup
Senior Girls Champion

Jess Rendall R2SLE

Gwen Brunton Cup
Intermediate Girls Champion

Chloe Booth 9AGMK

Ann Maskell Cup
Junior Girls Champion

Nane Becker A2PHL

Girls Cross Country Gold Medal
Fastest time for Girls

SWIMMING

Austin Court H2EMY

Australia Cup
Senior Boys Champion

Lorenzo Yamamoto H2EMY

Brownlee Cup
Intermediate Boys Champion

Luca Yamamoto 9HNEU

Kings Theatre Cup
Junior Boys Champion

Lexis Rohrlach H1CHO

Joyce Cup
Senior Girls Champion

Maia Whitney 9HNEU

Wilcox Cup
Junior Girls Champion

HOCKEY

Troy Costello A1SLA

Ison Family Trophy
Most Outstanding Boys Player

Felix Milner 9HNEU

Thames High School Boys Hockey Cup
Most Improved Boys Player

Annie Perrett A3HAR

AJR Trophy
Most Valuable Girls Player

Ellie Johnston H3BAV

Cecila Dunlop Cup
Most Improved Girls Player

Thames Valley Hockey - 6-Aside Winners

Miya Costello 10AMJR

Bella Bevan 10RALN
Gracie Miller 10RALN
Annie Perrett A3HAR
Roman Smith H2EMY
Troy Costello A1SLA
Ellie Johnston H3BAV
Aidan Murphy A3HAR
Koen Liddell D2SCO

Koen Liddell D2SCO

Thames High School Sports Trophy
Most Valuable Player

NETBALL

Caileigh Poipoi R2SLE

Coromandel Foods Trophy
All Round Excellence in Senior A Netball

Abbygail Patterson A2PHL

Coromandel Foods Trophy
Most Improved Senior A Player

Ora Wiki R2SLE

Fielder Family Cup
Most Valuable Player (Senior A)

Kyah Lyon H2EMY

Palethorpe Whānau Wahine Toa
Wahine Toa Trophy (Senior A)
Thames High School Medal
Top Goal Scorer 2024

Eva Ellis 9DMCN

Thames High School All Rounder
Best Development All Rounder

Chevy Wilcox 10DGDR

Thames High School Olsen Cup
Most Promising Development Player

Zaydee Prasad 10DGDR

Parke Whanau Trophy
Most Improved Development Player

Takaïmo-Riria Waite 10HFRG

Thames High School Ruru Cup
Most Promising Junior Blue

Nova Sawyer 10HFRG

Thames High School Junior Girls Netball Trophy
Best Junior All Rounder - Improvement, Attitude & Commitment to team, coach & her netball team

Zaylee Savage 9DMCN

Thames High School Cup
Junior Girl Most Improved (Junior Blue)

Savannah Corbett 9RCGY

Thames High School Netball Trophy
Most Improved Player (Junior Gold)

Olivia Lamont 9RCGY

/ Gracie Miller 10RALN
Thames High School Netball Trophy
Most Promising Player (Junior Gold)

Sports Awards

NETBALL Cont.

Thames Valley Secondary Schools

- Senior B Grade Winners

Abbygail Patterson A2PHL

Musa Ndlovu A3HAR

Lawron Waite H1CHO

Kyah Lyon H2EMY

Romie Dargaville Rehua R1DVY

Taylor Menzies D3CNW

Abbey Mobberley H2EMY

Chloe Paynter H2EMY

Caileigh Poipoi R2SLE

Ora Wiki R2SLE

Cassandra Duthie A2PHL

Nia Wilson D2SCO

Lily McCarthy 10RALN

Watts Family Trophy

Best All Rounder (Junior Gold)

RUGBY

Koen Liddell D2SCO

Thames High School 1st XV Rugby Cup

1st XV Player of the Year

Harley Harris D3CNW

Twentyman Kerby Cup

Most Improved Rugby Player

Tate Leatham H3BAV

Ricky Lidgard Memorial Cup

Most Dedicated 1st XV Member

Ffin Owen H3BAV

Richardson Real Estate Trophy

Most Promising 1st XV Member

Sireli Knox Memorial Trophy

1st XV Top Try Scorer

Tyler Smith 9RCGY

Thames High School 4th Grade Cup (U15)

Youth Boys Rugby - Player of the Year

Carson Fletcher 10HFRG

Thames High School 4th Grade Cup (U15)

Youth Boys Rugby - Most Valuable Player

Thames High School Medal

Archie Stove 9DMCN

Youth Boys Rugby - Overall top points scorer

Royal Dean 10HFRG

Youth Boys Rugby - Most Improved Player 2024

Carson Fletcher 10HFRG

Youth Boys Rugby - Best Sportsmanship 2024

Youth Boys Rugby Top Try Scorer 2024

Cortez Hogan 10HFRG

Youth Boys Rugby Top Try Scorer 2024

Isayah Boyd H3BAV

Most Valuable Player 1st XV

Hunter Growden H3BAV

Best Team Player 1st XV

Sienna Batie H2EMY

Vita Dryden Cup - Girls Rugby

Most Improved Player

Laura Donald R2SLE

Makara Trophy - Girls Rugby

Best Team Player

Taylor Menzies D3CNW

Kerebs Trophy - Girls Rugby

Most Valuable Player

FOOTBALL

Aidan Murphy A3HAR

Thames Soccer Club Trophy

Best All Round Senior Boy

Austin Court H2EMY

H J Maskell Trophy

Most Improved Senior Boy

Troy Costello A1SLA

Thames High School Trophy

1st XI Boys Football Golden Boot

Jess Rendall R2SLE

Thames High School Trophy

1st XI Girls Football Golden Boot

Terry Wood Cup

Excellence in Senior Girls Football

Ceyda Nemburt - D2SCO

Thames High School Trophy

1st XI Girls Football Golden Boot

Terry Wood Cup

Excellence in Senior Girls Football

Livien Borucka R3ROG

Dovell Trophy

Most Improved Senior Girl

Abby Greenwood -R1DVY

/ Troy Costello - A1SLA

Thames High School Football Medal

Best All Rounder - Improvement,

Attitude & Commitment

to team, coach and football

Jake Hudson 10AMJR

Warren Kidd Trophy

Best All Round Junior Boy

Daniel Reber 9AGMK

/Blake McLaren 9DMCN

Thames High School Trophy

Most Improved Junior Boy

Devnarayan Don 10RALN

Sprott Family Trophy

Most Promising Junior Boys Player

Jessica Atrill - 10DGDR

/ Lily McCarthy - 10RALN

Thames High School Trophy

Best All Round Junior Girl

Lucy Gage-Maddox 9HNEU

Terry Wood Cup

Most Improved Junior Girl.

Annabelle Hutchinson- Wong R3ROG

Curnow Award

Outstanding Effort throughout all teams

Thames High School Medal

Zander Curnow - Year 8

/ Fynn Paki - Year 8

Junior Boys Football - Yr 8 Participation

Waikato Secondary School Soccer Assn

- Junior Boys Division 5 Winners

Zander Curnow Year 8

Fynn Paki Year 8

Daniel Reber 9AGMK

Blake McLaren 9DMCN

Nikau Moana 9DMCN

Wyatt Doherty 9HNEU

Luca Yamamoto 9HNEU

Blaze Houghton 10AMJR

Jake Hudson 10AMJR

Jack McLaren 10DGDR

Daniel Burchell 10HFRG

Devnarayan Don 10RALN

Ben Eady 10RALN

Takuya Yamashita D1GRY

Liam Ball Paeroa

Eli Wanhill Paeroa

RUGBY 7S

Koen Liddell D2SCO

Thames High School Medal

Senior Boys Player of the Tournament

Ollie Stove D3CNW

Thames High School Medal

Senior Boys Most Dedicated Player

Fletcher 10HFRG

Thames High School Medal

Junior Boys Player of the Tournament Carson

Tre' Paki 10HFRG

Thames High School Medal

Junior Boys Most Improved Player

Taylor Menzies D3CNW

Thames High School Medal

Girls Player of the Tournament

Zaylee Savage 9DMCN

Thames High School Medal

Girls Most Improved Player

BASKETBALL

Wetere Kingi - D2SCO

/ Hunter Growden - H3BAV

Shane & Sandy Davis Cup

Most Valuable Senior Boy

Dylan Cameron - D3CNW

/ Eli Muller - R1DVY

Thames High School Senior Boys Basketball Trophy

Most Improved Senior Boy

Obe Fraser 10AMJR

Boots 'n' All Junior Boys Basketball Trophy

Most Valuable Junior Boy

Max White 9RCGY

Sterling Huett Junior Boys Basketball Trophy

Most Improved Junior Boy

Alzora Taylor 9AGMK

Thames High School Junior Girls

Basketball Trophy

Most Valuable Junior Girl

Dimple Martin 10DGDR

Thames High School Junior Girls

Basketball Trophy

Most Improved Junior Girl

Sports Awards

Thames High School Medal

Olivia Kenny Year 8

Junior Girls Basketball 2024 - Yr 8 Participation

Pearl Joy Newton Year 8

Junior Girls Basketball 2024 - Yr 8 Participation

Lyle Owen-Woods 9DMCN

Top Points Scorer 2024 - Junior GOLD team

Simrat Kaur 9RCGY

Top Points Scorer 2024 - Junior Girls team

Obe Fraser 10AMJR

Top Points Scorer 2024 - Junior BLUE team

Blaze Houghton 10AMJR

All Rounder Medal 2024 - Junior GOLD team

Benjy Moxsom 10AMJR

All Rounder Medal 2024 - Junior BLUE team

BADMINTON

Austin Court H2EMY

Cunningham Cup

Senior Boys Singles Champion

Romie Dargaville Rehua R1DVY

Managh Cup

Senior Girls Singles Champion

Ben Eady 10RALN

Maureen Mallinson Trophy

Junior Boys Singles Champion

Lily McCarthy 10RALN

Maureen Mallinson Trophy

Junior Girls Singles Champion

CHESS

Felix Milner 9HNEU

Thames High School Chess Trophy

Overall Chess Champion

GOLF

Jep Donaldson H1CHO

Thames High School Golf Trophy

Best Team Player

VOLLEYBALL

Koen Liddell D2SCO

Thames High School Medal

Senior Boys Most Improved

Luke Hollis A2PHL

Thames High School Trophy

Senior Boys Most Valuable Player

Takaimo-Riria Waite 10HFRG

Thames High School Medal

Senior Girls Most Improved

ADVENTURE RACING

Jack McLaren 10DGDR

White Family Trophy

For most valuable team member demonstrating outstanding commitment, skills and support

MOTOCROSS

William Steel H3BAV

Thames High School MX TROPHY

Most Improved

SERVICE TO SPORT (Year 13)

Caitlin Jones D2SCO

Hunter Growden H3BAV

Nia Wilson D2SCO

Cassandra Duthie A2PHL

TJ Judd H1CHO

Acknowledging the time, effort and support you have given to Sport at Thames High School and the Thames Community.

AMP TROPHY

Caileigh Poipoi R2SLE

Taylor Menzies D3CNW

Colin Barlow AMP Cup

Best All Round Contribution to Thames High School Sport

SPORTS LAURELS – HALF COLOUR

Athletics Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Thames Valley Athletics

Wai/BoP Athletics

Alzora Taylor 9AGMK

Archie Stove 9DMCN

Luca Yamamoto 9HNEU

Lincoln Donaldson 10HFRG

Lorenzo Yamamoto H2EMY

Isayah Boyd H3BAV

Jess Rendall R2SLE

Walter Wiki R2SLE

Austin Court H2EMY

Ellie Johnston H3BAV

Thames Valley Athletics

Rocky Tuhakaraina 9DMCN

Tyler Smith 9RCGY

Swimming Sport Laurel: Half Colour

Thames Valley Swimming

1st Place Overall Junior Boy

Luca Yamamoto 9HNEU

Thames Valley Swimming

1st Place Overall Senior Boy

Austin Court H2EMY

NZ Secondary Schools Swimming

qualifier, Waikato Secondary Schools

3rd 50m Butterfly, Thames Valley

Swimming

3rd Place Overall Intermediate Boy

Lorenzo Yamamoto H2EMY

Badminton Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Thames Valley Badminton

Frankie Merrett 10HFRG

Devnarayan Don 10RALN

Ben Eady 10RALN

Lily McCarthy 10RALN

Austin Court H2EMY

Rugby League Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Ffin Owen H3BAV

National Shaun Johnson Shield

Tournament Team

Equestrian Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Neka Woolf D2SCO

Amber Hunt D3CNW

Bella Hunt D3CNW

Thames Valley Equestrian 2nd Place team

Chess Sports Laurel : Half Colour

Felix Milner 9HNEU

Immanuel Huwald H2EMY

Jay Majurey H2EMY

Til Guernth D2SCO

Guido Fiorenzi D2SCO

NZ National Chess Qualifiers,

Regional Chess Champions 1st Team Overall,

top 5 individual placing

Tennis Sports Laurel : Half Colour

Thames Valley Tennis - 3rd Place Junior Girls Singles

Laura Elliott 9DMCN

Thames Valley Tennis - 2nd Place Junior Girls

Singles **Kiera Nunn 9DMCN**

Thames Valley Tennis - 1st Place Intermediate Girls

Singles

Jodie Loudon 10DGDR

Thames Valley Tennis - 2nd Place Intermediate

Boys Singles, 2nd Place Boys Open Doubles

Troy Costello A1SLA

Thames Valley Tennis - 2nd Place Boys Open

Doubles

Ashton McGuire D1GRY

Thames Valley Tennis - 3rd Place Intermediate Girls

Singles

Ellie Johnston H3BAV

Thames Valley Tennis - 1st Place Senior Girls Singles,

1st Place Senior Girls Doubles

Brooke Muir R2SLE

Thames Valley Tennis - 1st Place Senior Girls

Doubles

Annabelle Hutchinson- Wong R3ROG

SPORTS LAURELS – FULL COLOUR

Sports Laurel: Full Colour

Ffin Owen H3BAV

Wai/BoP Athletics 3rd Intermediate Boys 400m,
North Island Secondary Schools 9th Intermediate
Boys 400m

Swimming Sports Laurel: Full Colour

Maia Whitney 9HNEU

NZ Secondary Schools Swimming representative,
Waikato Secondary Schools 3rd 50m Backstroke,
6th 50m Freestyle,
Thames Valley Swimming: 1st Place Overall Junior
Girl

Swimming Sports Laurel: Full Colour

Nova Sawyer 10HFRG

NZ Secondary Schools Swimming representative,
Waikato Secondary Schools 3rd 100m Breastroke,
4th 50m Breastroke,
7th 100m Medley, Thames Valley Swimming: 2nd
Place Overall Junior Girl

Gymsport Sports Laurel : Full Colour

Ellie Johnston H3BAV

GFA in the Bay gaining 4 Gold
placings and 1 silver placing

Cricket Sports Laurel: Full Colour

Jess Rendall R2SLE

Member of the Morrinsville Piako
Women's Team who were the Premier
Women's Team winners T20 in the
Waikato Women's Competition,
Waikato Under 16 representative,
Waikato Under 19 representative and
a Northern Districts Academy Player
Northern Districts Under 17
representative

Senior Prize Giving

YEAR 11 DISTINCTION AWARDS

Alisson Agudelo Posada

Distinction in Science

Jack Busch

Distinction in Health & Physical Education

Carla Chaffey

Distinction in Fabric & Design

Distinction in History &

Distinction in Science

Liam Corbett

Distinction in Mechanical Engineering

Simon Darwall

Distinction in Mathematics,

Distinction in Physical Education &

Distinction In Science

Lexi Dinneen

Distinction in Physical Education &

Distinction in Science

Jep Donaldson

Distinction in Physical Education

Tayo Elusanmi

Distinction in Mechanical Engineering &

Distinction in Science

Coby Franklin

Distinction in Horticulture

Gabrielle Gage-Maddox

Distinction in Te Ao Haka

Shiloh Gilmor

Distinction in Furniture &

Distinction in Health & Physical Education

Cooper Greenwood

Distinction in Mathematics &

Distinction in Physical Education

Amber Hunt

Distinction in Drama

Jayme Jamieson

Distinction in Fabric & Design &

Distinction in Music

Pyper Liddell

Distinction in Music

Charlie Lyon

Distinction in Horticulture

Annie Perrett

Distinction in English,

Distinction in Geography,

Distinction in Mathematics With Statistics &

Distinction in Physical Education.

Annie is the Recipient of the Turoa-Tuaiti Trophy for Excellence in English by A Māori student

Jess Rendall

Distinction in Science

Tai Roberts

Distinction in Horticulture

Julius Smith

Distinction in Mechanical Engineering

William Steel

Distinction in Mechanical Engineering

Alison Tomsett

Distinction in Art,

Distinction in Food & Hospitality &

Distinction in Geography

Kairah Turoa

Distinction in History &

Distinction in Science

Neka Woolf

Distinction in Te Ao Haka

YEAR 11 -FIRST IN SUBJECT AWARDS

Scarlet Crook

1st in Horticulture

Distinction in English

Tyla Cullen

1st in Mathematics with Statistics

Evelyn Darwall

1st in Health & Physical Education,

Distinction in Art,

Distinction in English &

Distinction in Food & Hospitality

Eikura Emery

1st in Drama

Joe Hayward

1st in Mechanical Engineering &

Distinction in Furniture

Misaki Maeda

1st in Music,

Distinction in Mathematics &

Distinction in Science

Logan Murphy

Winner of the Jack Price Trophy for Top Boy in

Year 11 Physical Education

Abbygail Patterson

1st In Fabric & Design &

Distinction In Mathematics With Statistics

Shannara Smook

1st In Art

Distinction In Mathematics &

Distinction In Science

Milla Sawyer

1st In English,

Distinction In Mathematics,

Distinction In Physical Education &

Distinction In Science

Anja Watling

1st In Food & Hospitality,

Distinction In Mathematics,

Distinction In Physical Education &

Distinction In Science

THE FOLLOWING YEAR 11 STUDENTS HAVE

ACHIEVED A FIRST IN SUBJECT AWARDS IN TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS IN 2024

Romie Dargaville-Rehua

1ST in Te Reo Māori,

1ST in Te Ao Haka,

Distinction in Art,

Distinction in English &

Distinction in Physical Education

Brooklyn Jiang

1ST in Digital Technology

1ST in Furniture

1ST in Mathematics &

1ST in Science

Immanuel Huwald

1st in Level Two Chemistry,

1st in History,

1st in Level Two Physics,

1st in Level Three Calculus &

Winner of the Thames High School Calculus Cup

for Top Year 13 Calculus student

Winner of the the W H Baker Cup for Top

Performance of a Year 11 student in

Mathematics and Science,

Winner of the 1955 Pupils' 75th Anniversary Cup

and the

Ricoh Prize For Scholastic Excellence In Year 11

Rose Thomsen

1ST in Physical Education,

1ST in Science,

1ST in Design & Visual Communication

by online learning,

Winner of the Edwin Cup for Top Girl in

Year 11 Physical Education,

Distinction in Art &

Distinction in English

Lorenzo Yamamoto

1ST in Level Two Biology,

1st in Level Two Mathematics

Distinction in Geography &

Distinction In Science

YEAR 12 DISTINCTION AWARDS

Ava Arnold

Distinction in Outdoor Education

Dylan Bloor

Distinction in Horticulture

Kobe Brown

Distinction in Food & Hospitality

Harris Elliot-Hogg

Distinction in Music,

Distinction in Te Reo Māori

Harley Harris

Distinction in Gateway

Kou Ichikawa

Distinction in Horticulture

Saxon Knight

Distinction in Art &

Distinction in Mechanical Engineering

Tahliah Mccaskill

Distinction in Art &

Distinction in History

Jay Majurey

Distinction in Food & Hospitality &

Distinction in Horticulture

Cailleigh Poipoi

Distinction in English &

Distinction in Health

Ollie Stove

Distinction in Outdoor Education

Tamihana Timothy

Distinction in Fabric And Design &

Mathematics with Statistics

Eylül Tosun

Distinction in English

William Wilson

Distinction in Drama &

Distinction in Furniture

Senior Prize Giving

YEAR 12 FIRST IN SUBJECT

Ashley Bloor

1st in Food & Hospitality

Troy Costello

1st in Physical Education and Winner of the Thames High School Trophy for Top Boy in Year 12 Physical Education, Distinction in Biology & Distinction in Chemistry

Brennan Fitness

1st In Furniture & Distinction In Physical Education & Distinction In Trades Academy

Daniel Hewlett

1st in Visual Art Design

Ellie Johnston

1st in Fabric & Design Distinction in Physical Education & Distinction in Visual Arts Design

Abbey Mobberley

1st in Outdoor Education & Distinction in Physical Education

Karin Noge

1st in English Language

Troy Pascoe

1st in Horticulture & Distinction in Fabric & Design

Waimaarie Reynolds-Kokiri

1st in Te Ao Haka Winner of the Walter Taipari Memorial Prize for contribution to Kapa Haka

Palarry Rous

1st in Chemistry, Distinction in Biology Distinction in Mathematics, Distinction in Photography, Distinction in Physics & Student on Board of Trustees for 2025

Tristan Smith

1st in Trades Academy

Kayla Speed

1st In Photography, Distinction in Chemistry Distinction in Physics & winner of the Thames High School 'Student Volunteer Army' Top Volunteer Award

Ora Wiki

Equal winner of the Thames High School Trophy for Top Girl in Year 12 Physical Education & Distinction in English

Matthew Wilson

1st in Gateway Distinction in Physical Education

THE FOLLOWING YEAR 12 STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED A FIRST IN TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS

Austin Court

1st in Mechanical Engineering, Winner of the H. G. Laing Trophy for Top Student in Engineering, Distinction in Biology, Distinction in Physical Education & Distinction in Physics

Izzy Fitzsimons

1st in Music, Distinction in Chemistry, Distinction in English, Distinction in Mathematics, Distinction in Physics, Distinction in Te Ao Haka, Winner of the Poulgrain Cup & the Ricoh Prize for Scholastic Excellence in Year 12

Lexis Rohrlach

1st in Health, Equal winner of the Thames High School Trophy for Top Girl in Year 12 Physical Education, Distinction in Geography & Distinction in Tourism

Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong

1st in Business Studies by Online Learning, 1st in Geography by Online Learning, Distinction in English, Distinction in History, Distinction in Mathematics with Statistics & Winner of the Kōtui Ako Virtual Learning Network Special Award for Overall Academic Excellence at Ncea Level 2

Brooke Muir

1st in Geography, Winner of the New Zealand Geographical Society Cup, 1st in Mathematics with Statistics & Distinction in Tourism

Pavelyn Rous

1st in English 1st in History 1st in Psychology by Online Learning & Distinction in Biology

YEAR 13 DISTINCTION AWARDS

Livien Borucka

Winner of The Thames High School Most Integrated International Student

Hunter Growden

Distinction in Physical Education

Connor Lyon

Distinction in Mechanical Engineering Distinction in Outdoor Education & Distinction in Physics

Caitlin Jones

Distinction in English & Distinction in Geography

Tj Judd

Winner of the Contribution To Troupe Trophy Distinction in Drama

Tennyson Mercer

Distinction in Biology

Ari Reed

Distinction in Physical Education[3]

Ella Richmond

Distinction in Chemistry

Mikyle Russell

Distinction in Food & Hospitality

Jacob Wenhold

Distinction in Chemistry & Distinction in Music Nia Wilson Distinction in Mathematics With Statistics and Modelling

Nanami Ashida

Distinction in Fabric & Design & Distinction in Furniture

Ashley Dinneen

Distinction in Health

Jaselle Wilkinson

Distinction in Science

YEAR 13 FIRST IN SUBJECT

Cassandra Duthie

1st in Physical Education, Winner of the Ray Garrett Trophy for First in Year 13 Physical Education & Distinction in Tourism

Ashley Frisken

1st in Health Winner of the Kelly Cup for Top Level 3 Health Student, Distinction in Biology & Distinction in Chemistry

Luke Jamieson

1st in Food & Hospitality

Wetere Kingi

1st in Outdoor Education & Winner of the Wintec Adventurer's Cup for Excellence in Outdoor Education

Jamie Moxsom

1st in Mechanical Engineering

Will Perrett

1st in Furniture

Ella Smith

1st in Photography

Geri Steel

1st in Drama, Winner of the Furth Cup for the Performing Arts for Drama Distinction in Biology & Distinction in Outdoor Education

THE FOLLOWING YEAR 13 STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED A FIRST IN SUBJECT AWARDS IN TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS

Samantha Buffon

1st in Fabric & Design, 1st in Visual Art Design, Winner of the Photolife Award for Outstanding Year 13 Photography & Distinction in English

Abby Greenwood

1st In History, 1st in Geography, Winner of the Boots n All Cup for Excellence in Geography, Winner of the Thames High School Cup for Excellence in Social Studies & Distinction in English

Maia Harrison

1st in Mathematics with Statistics, Winner of the Thames High School Statistics Cup for Top Year 13 Statistics Student, Winner of The Stephen Bowater Award for Creative Excellence in Science, Distinction in Biology, Distinction in Chemistry, Distinction in History & Distinction in Physics

Senior Prize Giving

Jacob Rush

1st in Music
Winner of the Furth Cup for the Performing Arts for Music,
Winner of the Romola M Catran Cup for Most Valuable Senior Debater,
Winner of the Mackwell Ovation Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to the Performing Arts &
Distinction in Physics

Jordan Wheeler

1st in Biology,
1st in Chemistry,
1st in Physics,
Winner of the Boyce Cup for Top Science Student &
Distinction in Mathematics with Calculus

Abby Greenwood

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – 2024

Koen Lindell

HEAD Student
THE LIONS CLUB OF THAMES
HEAD Student TROPHY

Cassandra Duthie

HEAD Student
THE LIONESSE CLUB OF THAMES
HEAD Student TROPHY

DEPUTY SENIOR LEADERS 2024

Hunter Growden

Abby Greenwood

DEPUTY Students

Waimarie Reynolds-Kokiri &

Harris Elliott-Hogg

MANUKURA MĀORI

Maia Harrison

ACADEMIC

Izzy Fitzsimmons &

TJ Judd

ARTS / CULTURAL

Kayla Speed &

Pavelyn Rous

WELFARE

Nia Wilson &

Austin Court

SPORT

Keira Hall &

Caitlin Jones

ENVIRONMENTAL

Connor Lyon &

Ora Wiki

HOUSE

Hoult

HOUSE SHIELD WINNERS

SPECIAL AWARDS – 2024

Abby Greenwood 1st

Pavelyn Rous 2nd

Eylul Tosu 3rd

RICHMOND MALLORY TRUST
WRITING COMPETITION



Carla Chaffey (Year 11)



Shannara Smook (Year 11)



Caeden De Thierry (Year 11)



Brooklyn Jiang (Year 11).



Kairah Turoa (Year 11)



Ben Fitzgerald (Year 11)





Autographs

