

zó sziruppal: 12 dkg cukrot, és forrón a szilvára öntjük. Teljesen kihülni nagy így hidegen üvegekbe rakjuk és ismételten felforralt levét be rakott szilvára öntjük, lekööttük. A forrástól szá-8 percig kigőzöljük.



The HaurakiAN 2025 yearbook



1 Principal's Message	46 Gratitude & Farewells	83 Advice from Year 13
<u>TERM ONE</u>		
2 Pōwhiri	47 Student Success: Brooklyn Jiang	84 Senior Prize Giving
3 Welcomes & Farewells	48 Term 2 Continued	90 Top Awards
4 Senior Student Leaders	<u>TERM THREE</u>	91 Creative Writing
11 Junior Student Leaders	49 Careers / Volunteering Pins / Science	95 Hard Material Highlights & Food, Fabric and Design
12 Year 13 Camp	50 Spirit Week	96 Student Success: Izzy & Neka
13 Outdoor Education	51 Wellington: Art & History	97 Group Photos
14 International Department	52 The Outdoors	108 Whānau & Rōpu Photos
15 Art Department	53 Art Department	
16 Leadership Weekend & Whānau BBQ	54 Mike Edwards & 48 Hour Film	
17 Debating / Photo Competition & Creative Writing	55 Creative Writing: Newspaper Style	
18 Sports: House Activities Day	56 Student Success: Jacob White & Sophia Haakma	
20 Sports: Athletics	57 Music Department	
21 Sports: Swimming Carnival	58 Concert Continued	
22 Sport Spotlight	59 Daffodil Day	
24 Active As	60 Rotorua Trip / Open Evening & Author Visit	
25 Farewell to Mrs Keet	61 Sport Spotlight	
26 Dress Ups on Last Day	63 Active As	
<u>TERM TWO</u>	64 Sports Exchange	
27 Welcome Mr Wright	65 Food Festival & Kapa Haka	
28 ANZAC	<u>TERM FOUR</u>	
29 Waitangi Trip	66 Creative Writing / Wero Trip & Seagull Centre Grant	
30 Cross Country	67 Spirit of Adventure & Debating	
31 Music Mentorship: Mazbou Q	68 Final Art Boards	
32 THS + Thames Music & Drama	72 Gold Coast Touch Tournament	
33 Pink Shirt Day	73 Student Success: Ffin Owen & Sport Spotlight	
35 Matariki	74 Sport Prize Giving	
36 The Ball	80 Australian Trust Maths Tournament & Poetry	
43 Sports Spotlight	81 Farewell Ruth	
	82 Farewell Mr Mackie	



Principal's Message

2025 has been a year marked by progress, purpose, and a strong sense of community spirit at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga. Across the kura, we have strengthened learning, deepened curriculum development, and celebrated the many achievements of our rangatahi.

This year we finalised our **Graduate Profile** and **Instructional Model**, two important pieces of work that describe the capabilities we want every learner to develop and the consistent, evidence-informed teaching practices that will support them. These will be fully implemented in 2026, helping bring greater coherence and clarity to learning across Years 9–13. We are also preparing for likely changes to national qualifications from 2028, ensuring students remain confident and well supported through the shifts ahead. A major focus has also been preparing for the new curriculum (Te Mātaiaho), which begins to become mandatory from 2026.

We have continued to strengthen the foundations of learning through our **Literacy and Numeracy Frameworks**, with targeted work on reading, writing, vocabulary, and integrating numeracy across the curriculum. This mahi will have long-term benefits for student confidence and achievement.

Our focus on **NCEA success** continues to build momentum. Through targeted support, mentoring, and clearer learning pathways, students have been better equipped to navigate the year.

The dedication of staff, and support of parents and whānau, are valued, and make a huge difference in the lives of taiohi.

The **Ka Ora Ka Ako / Food in Schools Programme** has remained an important contributor to student wellbeing. While it may not always meet everyone's preferences, we see daily how it enables students to participate, focus, and feel cared for—an expression of manaakitanga that reflects the heart of our kura.

This year also brought leadership transitions. We farewelled **Penny Keet**, whose many years of service as Deputy Principal leave a legacy of care and high expectations. We warmly welcomed **Gareth Wright**, bringing calm leadership, thoughtful judgement, and a strong commitment to student success and staff wellbeing.

Sport has continued to flourish, with growth in participation, improving results, and a strengthening of school spirit. Our involvement in **Active As**, along with committed coaches, managers, and the **generosity of parent and community volunteers**, has enriched opportunities for students. Sport at THS thrives because of this collective effort.

Visitors and whānau consistently comment on how warm, respectful, and grounded our students are—qualities that shine at pōwhiri, mihi whakatau, cultural events, and in everyday interactions.

We remain deeply committed to **giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi**. Thanks to our School Board, for its unwavering support of this kaupapa.

As we close the year, we offer a fond **au revoir to the Class of 2025**. Whether you read this edition of The Haurakian now or in years to come, may it remind you of the friendships, challenges overcome, and shared moments that make Thames High School a place to cherish.

Kia kotahi ai te pikī ake. Kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata.

Ngā Manaakitanga

Michael Hart



Pōwhiri 2025

Thames High School Welcomes New Faces and Reconnects with Alumni Or “Once part of the Thames High School Whanau, always part of the whanau!” :)

Thames High School has kicked off 2025 with warm welcomes for new students, staff, and an invitation for past students to reconnect.

This year's pōwhiri provided the perfect setting to introduce the incoming Year 9 rōpū, new students across year levels, and 17 international students from Japan, Cambodia, and Germany. The school also welcomes four new teachers: Mr. Anukar Kumar (Biology) and Mr. Rinal Prasad (Mathematics) from Fiji, Mr. Raveneesh Nand (Mathematics) from Morrinsville, and Mr. Michael Kim (Outdoor Education) from HPC, who will also serve as Kaiawhina/Dean for Year 9 and 10 students.

We were fortunate to have our mana whenua, Ngāti Maru, represented by Johnson (Reha) Watene and

Matua Wati Ngāmane, who led karakia (blessings) and whaikōrero (speeches) to formally welcome our newcomers. Many thanks also to Matua Wayne Whitney, who spoke on behalf of the manuhiri (visitors), who are now tangata whenua following this welcome and to Board Chairperson Reverend Brendon for blessing the additional kākahu (cloaks) for newly appointed Deputy Student Leaders and Manukura Māori Leaders.

-Excerpt from Valley Profile Article



04 THE VALLEY PROFILE, February 25, 2025

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

New faces and alumni reconnect at THS

Thames High School has kicked off 2025 with warm welcomes for new students, staff, and an invitation for past students to reconnect.

This year's pōwhiri provided the perfect setting to introduce the incoming Year 9 rōpū, new students across year levels, and 17 international students from Japan, Cambodia, and Germany.

The school also welcomes four new teachers: Anukar Kumar in biology, and Rinal Prasad in mathematics from Fiji, Raveneesh Nand in mathematics from Morrinsville, and Michael Kim in outdoor education from Hauraki Plains College, who will also serve as Kaiawhina/Dean for Year 9 and 10 students.

We were fortunate to have our mana whenua, Ngāti Maru, represented by Johnson (Reha) Watene and Matua Wati Ngāmane, who led karakia (blessings) and whaikōrero (speeches) to formally welcome our newcomers. Many thanks also to Matua Wayne Whitney, who spoke on behalf of the manuhiri (visitors), who are now tangata whenua following this welcome and to board chairperson Reverend Brendon for blessing the additional kākahu



A Thames High School pōwhiri to welcome new staff and students to the school community.

(cloaks) for newly appointed Deputy Student Leaders and Manukura Māori Leaders.

In the spirit of reconnection, Thames High School is launching an alumni network to unite past and present students.

This initiative aims to foster mentorship, share experiences, and provide opportunities for

former students to give back.

To mark this initiative, an alumni barbecue will be held on April 6, 2025, featuring a school tour and talks from current student leaders.

Former students are encouraged to attend, share memories, and see the school's latest developments. With Thames

High School's 150th anniversary approaching in 2030, gathering alumni contacts now will ensure an engaged community for this significant milestone.

Thames High looks forward to strengthening connections across generations, building a lasting sense of belonging.

If you are interested in at-

Photo: SUPPLIED

tending or being part of the committee please email christinesutton@thameshigh-school.nz for a registration form, or visit our website where you can register online. There will be a small cost to cover the lunch.

- Supplied by Thames High School

Welcome



Mr. Ravenesh Nand (Mathematics) from Morrinsville.



Mr. Rinal Prasad (Mathematics) from Fiji but left Term 3.



Jennifer Baylosis (Technology)



Alicia Costello (Sports Coordinator)



Gareth Wright
Deputy Principal
Check out Gareth's Welcome on page 27



Mrs Mubashara Akhtar (Mathematics)



Mr. Michael Kim (Outdoor Education)

Farewell



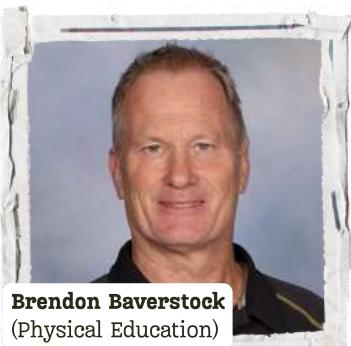
Shannon Paki
(Check & Connect Pastoral)



Shannon Paki
(Check & Connect Pastoral)



Michelle Fry
(Teacher Aid)



Brendon Baverstock
(Physical Education)



Frances Crooymans
(Accounts & Payroll)



Clive Nixon
(ESOL)



Ewan Grant-Mackie
(Science)

Check out Ewan's farewell on page 81



Ruth Howes
(Librarian)

Check out Ruths Farewell on page 80



Kiryn Curnow
(Science) See page 46



Penny Keet
Deputy Principal

Check out Penny's farewell on page 25

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

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

UT PROSIM PATRIAM

MANUARATAKI-A-KURA HEAD STUDENT LEADER

Kia Ora koutou, my name is Ora

I am your Manakura Māori for 2025. This year my goal is to represent Te Ao Māori proudly in our kura and to support all of you. This year I work alongside my girls, Lawron and Romie to organise and prepare events such as Matariki Celebration, Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori and hopefully more!

I also work alongside Izzy and Harris, our head boy and girl, to help them with their roles and the responsibilities that come with them. My advice for High School is you are only here once, we will never get another chance to relive these moments, they are finite. So take as many opportunities as you can!

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UT PROSIM PATRIAM

MANUARATAKI-A-KURA HEAD STUDENT LEADER

Kia ora!
Ko Isabella
tōku ingoa.

As one of the Head Student Leaders, my job is to help oversee other Student Leaders and represent our Kura at different forums. I personally help run the student council and ball committee. Thames High School has been really great at making sure I find opportunities in the community to cater to my hobbies and passions such as music, Te Ao Māori and academics. Next year I plan on studying physics or performing arts at The University of Otago. My advice for high school is to take every opportunity that comes your way even if it seems scary. You may find out more about yourself and what you're capable of.

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UT PROSIM PATRIAM

MANUARATAKI-A-KURA HEAD STUDENT LEADER

Kia Ora,
Ko Harris Elliot-Hogg
tōku ingoa.

Being one of your Head Student Leaders this year means a great deal to me. My goals, this year, are to make a change in our kura, to make people feel welcome, and I want people to be able to express themselves in their own way. This year I will be overseeing all the events that are happening and will be helping out where I can. I enjoy immersing myself in Te Ao Māori and love participating in our Kapa Haka rōpu which I have been leading our boys for the past 3 years. My dream is to teach and make a difference for the Māori community in our country. If you ever want to talk to me about something or want to make suggestions on things to do in our kura you can most likely find me in the Wharenui.



MANUARATAKI-A-KURA DEPUTY HEAD STUDENT



Hello,
my name is
Troy Costello

Alongside Kayla Speed, I have the honour of being Deputy Head Student to the Junior school for 2025. Our role this year is to support the Head Leaders and the leadership team, as well as strengthen the connection between senior and junior students by creating more opportunities for fun and engagement within the school. I am passionate about sports and the outdoors, and I love spending time in nature. My goal this year as Junior Deputy Head Boy is to contribute to making the school a more enjoyable and inclusive place, while growing leadership in the junior school.



MANUARATAKI-A-KURA DEPUTY HEAD STUDENT

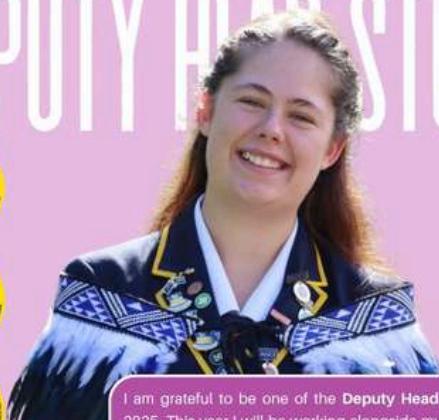


Kia ora,
I'm Abbey
Mobberley

I am one of your Deputy Head Student Leaders this year. Alongside Austin Court we are focused on the senior school for 2025. Our goals are to enhance and grow the bond between the junior and senior school. I enjoy playing sports and trying new things and I have a strong commitment to academic excellence and personal growth. I believe I lead by example, encouraging others to reach their full potential both on the court and in the class room. Whether organising events, representing students, or working alongside staff, I am always ready to contribute, inspire, and make a difference.



MANUARATAKI-A-KURA DEPUTY HEAD STUDENT



Hi I'm
Kayla Speed!

I am grateful to be one of the Deputy Head Student Leaders for 2025. This year I will be working alongside my fellow student leader Troy, where we will be working closely with the junior school and starting up a Junior Leadership Team. We want to encourage the students to take every opportunity they get, get out of their comfort zones, and make the most of everything. I am a people person who loves taking on a good challenge, I spend most of my time, dancing, volunteering, and working with people. My goal for the future is to pursue a career in Medicine-Pediatrics, where I can make a meaningful impact in people's lives by providing care and support.



MANUARATAKI-A-KURA DEPUTY HEAD STUDENT



Hi,
my name is
Austin Court

Along side Abbey Mobberley, I have the role of being Deputy Head Student Leader for 2025.

Together our responsibilities are to help support the Head Leaders, the leadership team and also to help improve the link between senior and junior students by giving the opportunity for more fun in school.

I am very sporty and love the outdoors spending time at the bottom of the ocean to the top of the mountains. My goal this year, as a Deputy Head Student, is to make the school a more enjoyable place and help support my fellow student leaders.



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MANUARATAKI MĀORI MĀORI STUDENT LEADER

Kia Ora,
Ko Romie
tōku ingoa

I am one of three Manukura Māori for 2025. I am proud to support and uplift Māori students and kaupapa within our kura. I help create spaces where Te Ao Māori is celebrated, Te Reo Māori is encouraged, and tikanga is respected. My role includes advocating for Māori voice in school decisions, supporting kaupapa Māori events such as **Matariki** and **Te Wiki o te Reo Māori**, and working closely with staff and whānau to strengthen cultural identity and pride.

After I leave school, I intend to go into the navy to study and serve!

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MANUARATAKI MĀORI MĀORI STUDENT LEADER

Kia Ora,
ko Lawron
tōku ingoa

I am one of the three Manukura of Te Kura O te Tuarua O te Kauaeanga of 2025, I am an outgoing and approachable individual who is always eager to meet new people and build meaningful connections.

My role as a Manukura, alongside Romie and Ora, is to share my knowledge of our culture. I'm here to help our rangatahi to feel proud to be Māori and to encourage them to be a part of their culture. I will be helping and organising with will be the upcoming events: **Matariki** and **Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori**.

These events are going to be the biggest this year, and I am excited for everyone to see how they turn out!

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KAIARATAKI TAIAO-A-KURA SERVICE & ENVIRONMENT

Hello, my
name is
Annabelle

I am your **Service & Environment** Student Leader for 2025, alongside Brooklyn.

In this role, my goal is to create meaningful opportunities for all students to get involved in community volunteering, with a special focus on environmental initiatives. Through the **Student Volunteer Army**—a platform where students can earn badges by completing service tasks—I aim to expand our membership and integrate environmental efforts into every volunteer activity throughout the year.

I enjoy working and spending time with my friends.

Looking ahead, I plan to study a Bachelor of Commerce at Victoria University, in order to begin a career in marketing.

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KAIARATAKI TAIAO-A-KURA SERVICE & ENVIRONMENT

Suoste,
khnhom
chhnom
Brooklyn
Jiang

Hi I'm Brooklyn and I am your **Service + Environment** Student Leader for 2025!

My passion since I was a little kid has been technology and science, and in my free time, I volunteer at the Seagull Centre, repairing and testing technology donated.

As the **Student Volunteer Army Leader**, I want to promote and encourage volunteering among my classmates. Not only will this give them work experience, but it will also make our school more integrated with our community.

After I graduate from Thames High school, I want to study at Auckland University, to get my Engineering Degree.





KAIARATAKI AKORANGA ACADEMIC STUDENT LEADER



Hi!
My
name is
Palarry
Rous

I am one of your Academic Student Leaders, alongside my twin sister Pavelyn, for 2025! I am also the Student Representative on the School Board. As academic leaders, we want to support every student at Thames High School to achieve whatever academic goals they have, whether it be big or small. This year, we plan to start up tutoring at the beginning of Term 2. I want to promote more out-of-school programs, like the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum, Hands-On at Otago, and the Chemistry and Biology Olympiads. I plan on doing a Bachelor of Pharmacy at The University of Auckland.



KAIARATAKI AKORANGA ACADEMIC STUDENT LEADER



Hello :)
My
name is
Pavelyn
Rous

I'm honoured to be a Thames High School Student Leader again for 2025! This time I am Academic Leader alongside my twin brother, Palarry. Our role is to encourage academic success and offer support in all areas of learning. We're excited to plan several events for the year, including a Science Fair and a Speech Competition. We'll also be offering tutoring sessions to help our students achieve even more. Additionally, in collaboration with the Thames School of Mines, we'll be launching Geology and History Clubs! I plan on pursuing a career in clinical psychology, with the goal of earning a PhD. My ultimate aim is to make a meaningful impact on the mental health system in New Zealand.



KAIARATAKI TIKANGA-A-IWI ARTS & CULTURE LEADER



Kia Ora,
my name is
Neka Woolf

Together with EYLUL TOSUN, I will be one of the Arts & Culture Student Leaders for 2025. This year we will be responsible for many different events such as the annual International Food Festival, our Photography Competition and a Heritage Day that we hope start this year as well as helping with Matariki. In my spare time I'm passionate about Dance, Horse-riding, sport and anything to do with the ocean. I love Kapa Haka and being involved with many school clubs and committees. In the future I hope to do something in the performing arts and or something to fuel my love of the ocean and travel.



KAIARATAKI TIKANGA-A-IWI ARTS & CULTURE LEADER



Herkese
Merhaba,
ben EYLUL

I am honoured to be your Arts & Cultural Student Leader for 2025! I am Turkish with Kurdish origin, which gives me a unique perspective on cultural diversity. I want to encourage every student to showcase their skills as I am convinced that our different backgrounds and differences as human beings makes us stronger and brings us together as a community. I will run a food festival, photography competition, cultural recognition days and help our with Matariki Celebrations. We welcome new international students every year and I intend to make them feel welcomed and encourage them to participate in the activities we run at the school.



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KAIARATAKI HAUWHARE HOUSE LEADER: DORRINGTON



Hi,
my name is
Taylor
Menzies

I am Head of House for Dorrington in 2025.

Along with the other House Leaders, I am honored to present and lead Dorrington House through what promises to be an exciting year ahead.

My goal is to inspire spirit and encourage everyone to reach their full potential. I believe with determination we can bring back our house spirit and rally us to be the loudest, proudest and most cheerful we've ever been.

Together let's bring back our cheer and show everyone what it truly means to be the best.

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KAIARATAKI HAUWHARE HOUSE LEADER: RUDMAN



Hi, my
name is
Brooke

I'm excited to be one of this year's House Student Leaders. Along with the other House Leaders I'll be helping to organise fun events like swimming sports, house battles, Spirit Week, and other activities throughout the year. My goal is to encourage everyone to get involved and build house spirit. I'll also be supporting the leadership team to create a positive, welcoming environment for all students. One of the things I love most about school is the endless opportunities it offers, whether it's meeting new people, hanging out with friends, or taking on new challenges.

In my own time I enjoy going for walks, doing things with my friends and playing tennis. Beyond school, I would like to be able to attend university and eventually explore the world through travel.

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KAIARATAKI HAUWHARE HOUSE LEADER: HOULT



Hi,
my name is
Lexis

I am Head of House for Houghton in 2025.

My aim is to help encourage everyone to get involved, try new activities and feel like they belong within our school community. I work alongside the other house leaders to organise and run events like spirit week, which promotes healthy wellbeing and allows students to have fun during school.

Fitness and health has always been a passion of mine and next year I'm going to be studying at the University of Waikato doing a Bachelor of Sport and Human Performance. Through this degree I will hopefully become a Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist, which will allow me to help people and make a difference!

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KAIARATAKI HAUWHARE HOUSE LEADER: ADAMS



Kia ora,
my name is
Abbygail
Patterson

I am Head of House for Adams in 2025.

Along with the other House Leaders, I will be helping support the Sport Leaders and planning events such as Swimming Sports, Athletics Day, Spirit Week, House Battles and other events throughout the year.

I am very optimistic minded and love getting outdoors, exploring new places and trying new things. Taking opportunities is very important to me as it will always benefit in some way. I am involved in both sport and church communities outside of school and I am always willing to help and support when it is needed.

I want to keep my mind open to any opportunities or unexpected paths that may reveal themselves.



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UT PROSIM PATRIAM

KAIARATAKI HĀKINAKINA SPORTS STUDENT LEADER



Kia ora!
My name is
Isayah
Boyd

I'm proud to be a Sports Leader at Thames High School. Sport has always played a big role in my life, and I'm passionate about using it to bring people together, build confidence, and create a strong sense of school spirit. In my role, I help organise sports events, support school teams, and encourage students to get involved, stay active, and have fun. I work closely with my fellow leaders, Caileigh and Ffin, and together we aim to make sport at Thames High inclusive, exciting, and rewarding for everyone. Whether it's on the field, court, or sidelines, I'm always keen to help others give their best and enjoy everything sport has to offer.

MANAKĀTANIA
WHAKAMĀNA
WHAKĀNAINGATĀNOA
MĀĀRIRANGA
WHĀKAPOHO



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UT PROSIM PATRIAM

KAIARATAKI HĀKINAKINA SPORTS STUDENT LEADER



Hi,
my name is
Ffin Owen

I am thrilled to be working alongside Caileigh Poipoi and Isayah Boyd in promoting sports and getting more students involved in physical activities. With a deep passion for sports and a strong belief in their power to bring people together, I am eager to inspire students to get active, build skills, and embrace the fun of being part of a team. Together with Caileigh and Isayah, I am focused on creating an inclusive and exciting environment where every student feels encouraged to participate and discover the joy of sports. Whether it's through team-building events, skill workshops, or simply having fun, I am excited to help students find their passion for all sports.

MANAKĀTANIA
WHAKAMĀNA
WHAKĀNAINGATĀNOA
MĀĀRIRANGA
WHĀKAPOHO

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UT PROSIM PATRIAM

KAIARATAKI HĀKINAKINA SPORTS STUDENT LEADER



Hey, I'm
Caileigh
Poipoi

I am one of the Sport Student Leaders for 2025. My job is to help run school sporting events, such as Athletics Day, and encourage students to participate. I am a captain for my Touch and Netball teams and I play Rugby. I am very dedicated to sports in and outside of school. I believe that sport provides many different learning opportunities and helps to teach real life skills. There is so much to benefit from sports, and there is a huge variety that Thames High School provides for students to choose from. I am looking to study Sports and Human Performance next year at The University of Waikato.

MANAKĀTANIA
WHAKAMĀNA
WHAKĀNAINGATĀNOA
MĀĀRIRANGA
WHĀKAPOHO

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KAIARATAKI HAUORANGA WELFARE STUDENT LEADER



Hello my
name is
Milla
Sawyer

I am your welfare student leader for 2025.
I hope to help make Thames High School a safe environment for everybody and address the importance of mental health in students.
Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my friends, going to the beach in summer and snowboarding in winter.
Throughout the year I will work alongside Talliah, our school counselor Kylie, and all the student leaders to organise physical and mental health awareness days such as **Pink Shirt Day**, **Gumboot Friday** and **Daffodil Day**. I hope to get to know as many of you as possible.







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KAIARATAKI HAUORANGA WELFARE STUDENT LEADER



Hi,
I am
Tahliah
McCaskill

I am one of your Welfare Student Leaders for 2025, alongside Milla Sawyer.
My responsibilities as a Welfare Leader is to promote well-being around Thames High School by running events such as **Mental Health Awareness Week** and **Pink Shirt Day** as well as **He Taringa Whakarongo, A Listening Ear** (also known as EARS). This is a group of students who will be there for others around the school who want to be listened to. The aim is to make sure students feel seen and comfortable.
I enjoy painting and being around family and friends. I view art as a wonderful way to express yourself as there is no wrong way to do it.











ADVERTISING FEATURE

Thames High seniors inspire new junior leaders

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Leadership is an important part of Thames High School.

It is something the school encourages students to do in many ways, including a new junior leadership programme, a head Manukura Māori student leader, and a new peer support initiative.

Student senior leaders noticed there was a missed opportunity for junior students who came from leadership roles in primary school, but had to wait until years 12 and 13 before they could carry out responsibilities as leaders.

Deputy head students and senior student leadership team members Troy Costello, 17, and Kayla Speed, 17, told *The Profile* the group of senior leaders created the junior leadership team known as Manukura Teina, made up of 16 year 9 and 10 students.

"They are here to help the senior leaders with whatever needs to be done, giving them responsibilities and a leadership role to step up to through their time as Manukura Teina."

All the Manukura Teina were paired up with the senior leaders, and throughout the year would communicate and offer help to the senior leaders with whatever needed to be done, they said.

"We want to help them build confidence in themselves and in talking in front of people, get them out of their comfort zones, and try new things."

"These could be our future senior leaders of the school, and by



Deputy head student Kayla Speed, centre, with some of the junior leadership team members. SUPPLIED

being able to mentor them, they get to learn so much from us and our mistakes.

"Our senior leaders get to inspire the younger students," they said.

Another leader at the school was head Manukura Māori (Māori leader) for 2025 Ora Wiki.

Ora wanted her peers to know her as someone who was approachable and there to support all students in her position as Manukura Māori - "that is my job and why I am passionate about being a leader".

Her goals for the year were to

"create a safe place for our Māori students to confide in when they have any issues, but to also empower Te Ao Māori and our Māori students in the kura".

One way Ora was able to develop her leadership was by attending a leadership camp at Wharekawa Lodge last month, organised by Whangamatā School and Thames High.

There she learned how other student leader teams operated to create events for their students, how to speak confidently in public, and also to prioritise looking after

oneself, she said.

But the things Ora said she looked for in a great leader were kindness, empathy and strength.

Her advice for others who wanted to become leaders was to never be afraid to step up and out of their comfort zone, she said.

Another way students were invited to step up was through a new initiative being set up called He Taringa Whakarongo, A Listening Ear - which was a network of students interested in supporting each other.

Staff member in charge counse-

lor Kylie Finch said more than 20 year 10-13 students wrote applications to be considered for the role of tuakana.

"Tuakana-teina is a Māori concept of support. Historically the tuakana was an older, more knowledgeable family member that would impart knowledge to the teina (younger person)," she said.

"These days the tuakana (more knowledgeable person) does not need to be older, can be a peer, but has more knowledge in some area."

The role for tuakana was to be a listening ear for students wanting to talk to someone around their own age, Kylie said.

"Anyone at school or in the school community can refer a student they think might benefit from a listening ear. Students can refer themselves also."

One student said they wanted to be considered for the role because "it makes me feel good" to help others.

"To be a tuakana for He Taringa Whakarongo would be a great opportunity for me to make connections with others, and to make others feel heard, respected, and to have someone that they can trust," they said.

But the main outcome Kylie hoped would come from the initiative was for students to feel cared about, to feel supported at school and in the community and to "know their wellbeing is important to us".



Pearl McWatt
(Year 9)



Maia Whitney
(Year 10)



Thamenen Kong
(Year 9)

Joseph Dobie
(Year 9)

Nico Rolton
(Year 9)

Luca Yamamoto
(Year 10)

Lexi Thomas
(Year 10)

Jessica Darwell
(Year 10)

Year13 Camp

On Wednesday 19 February, Year 13s embarked on a two nights and three day camp at Tapapakanga Regional Park.

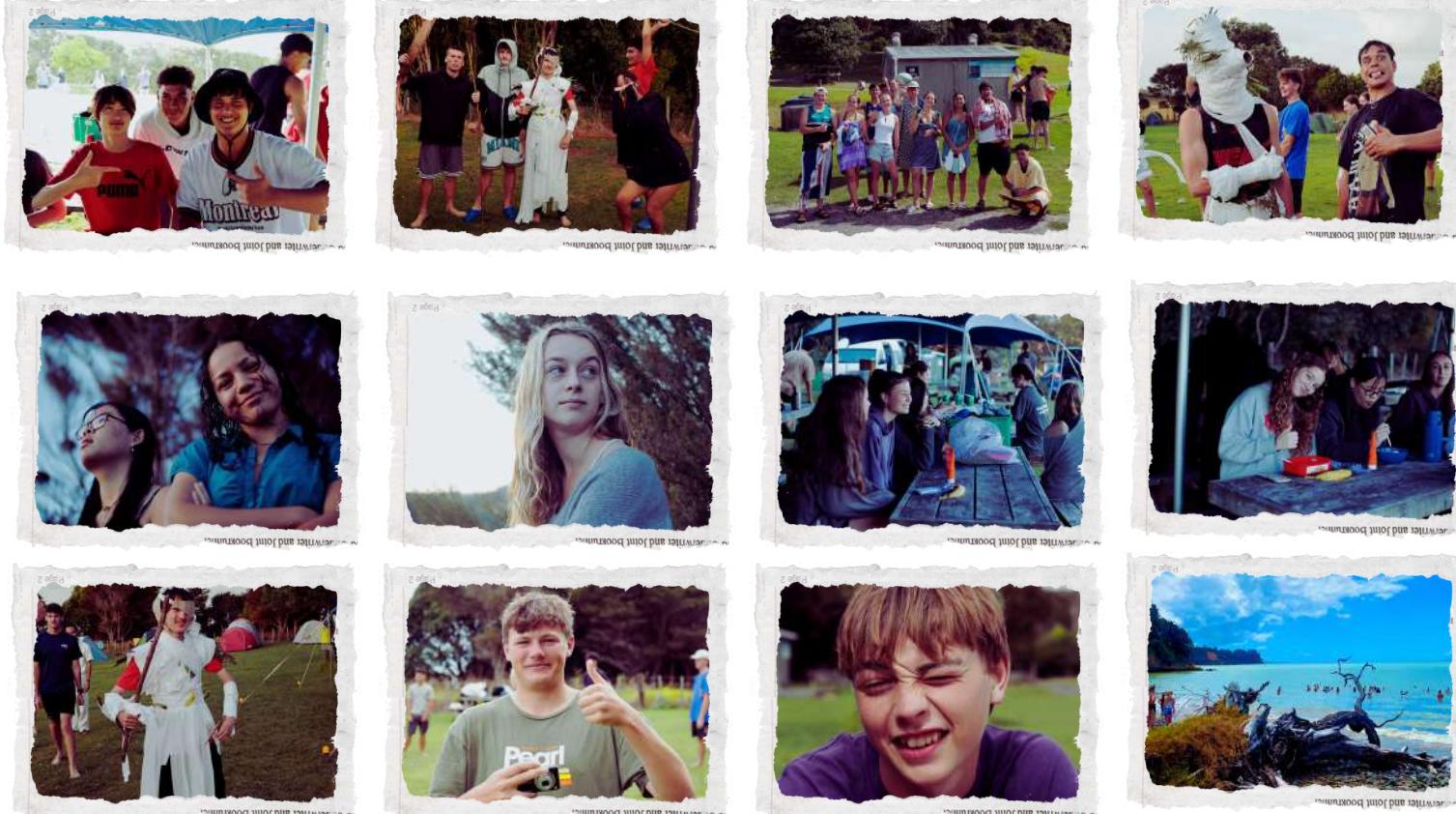
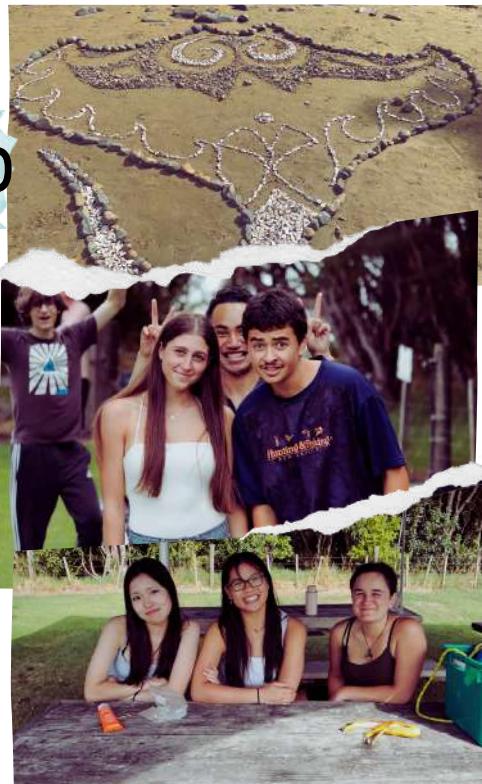
During the time at camp, we split off into four separate groups, and in our teams, we had to work together to get through whatever challenges were thrown at us. While working on these activities, we were challenged on our teamwork and perseverance skills. Still, by the end of it, everyone got more comfortable and closer with one another, which was reflected in the results of each task.

A highlight of camp was seeing how every group was able to work well together and be so creative. An example of this would be our wearable arts project where each team had to create an outfit for one member of the group to model using only toilet paper. The creations that were made truly showed what putting different-minded people together could achieve!

At camp we were well fed and well looked after. Being in such a communal space allowed for deeper connections between all of us and the teachers.

Overall, it was an incredible experience which everyone should do!

-Student Leader Pavelyn Rous



Sea Kayaking: Whangamata

This is what our Outdoor Education Programme is all about! Our students successfully demonstrated their sea kayaking skills as part of their Unit Standard 19428 – Demonstrate sea kayaking skills on coastal water.

From Whangamata Beach, students met expert external providers who guided them on an unforgettable kayaking excursion to Whenuakura Island! They paddled in double sea kayaks, putting their skills to the test in a real coastal environment.

What an incredible hands-on learning experience!

-Facebook Post



River Crossing

OED3 River Crossings at Karangahake Gorge. Students had to demonstrate two river crossings and pack a float in moving water.



Caving: Nikau Caves at Waikaretu

10 April 2025



Whitewater Rafting



International students enjoy Surf Lessons

Term 1 after-school surf lessons in Whangamata have been an absolute blast (or splash!) for our German students! Thanks to International Director, Pauline, for driving them out every Thursday evening.



Goodbyes & BBQ's

Pauline and Justina hosted a brunch BBQ to say thank you to our host families and to present some certificates to those that leave this term. It was a great morning of connection.

Thank you to their host families for taking such great care of them.



Trip to Matai Whetū Marae

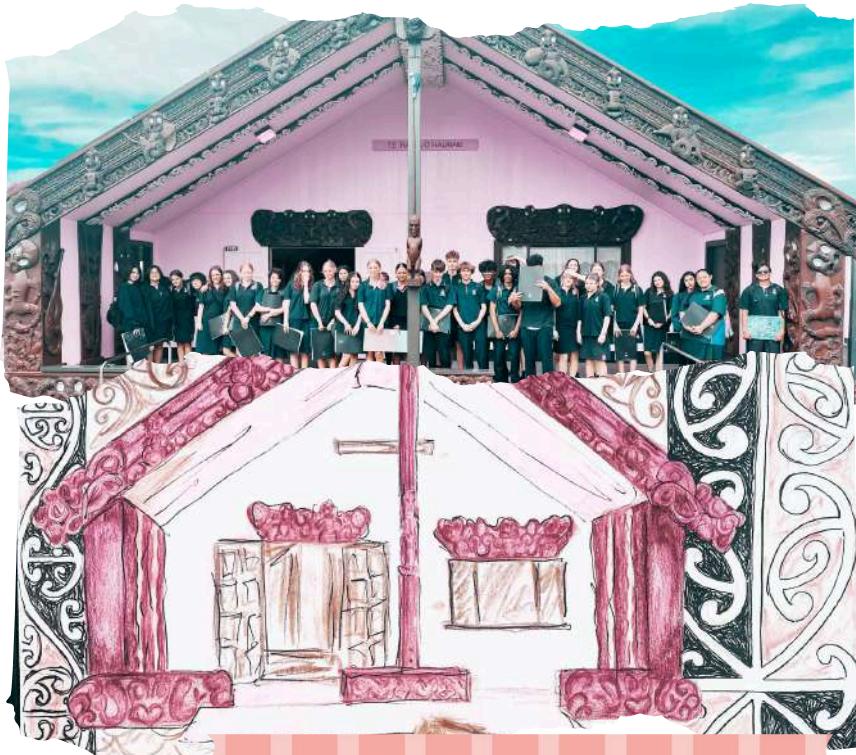
On Tuesday 18 February, our Level 1 Art (Year 11) students had an amazing school art trip to Matai Whetū Marae. Thanks very much to Ngāti Maru for hosting us, and sharing your rich mātauranga (knowledge) with us. Students learned about the carvings in the Meeting House, Te Rama o

Hauraki, and completed two sketch pages for their Achievement Standard 1.2 Assessment (Produce resolved artwork appropriate to established art making conventions). We think they produced some amazing work!



Trip to School of Mines

We have also taken the same group to the School of Mines and had a great couple of hours finding out about the history of Thames, our mining heritage, the good and the not so good people who helped make the town and where bone china actually comes from (you really DO NOT want to know !



Year 9 Portraits



First, they drew each other with their wrong hands / did speed drawings / didn't look at their drawings while they were actually drawing them and then they explored mixed media, mark making and finally paint.

We also looked at the work of the artist Zio Ziegler to incorporate his use of patterning. Quite a journey!



Leadership Weekend

On Thursday 20 March and Friday 21 March our Head Student Leaders—Ora Wiki, Izzy Fitzsimons, and Harris Elliot-Hogg—had the amazing opportunity to attend an overnight Leadership Workshop at Wharekawa Lodge.

Over the course of two days, they took part in a variety of activities and presentations designed to strengthen their leadership abilities, build meaningful connections, and support personal growth. The workshop also focused on developing regional networks and capacities, equipping students with the tools to represent our community with confidence and pride.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this experience possible. It was truly inspiring to see our young leaders step up, engage, and grow!



Head Leaders presented with Kākahu



Whānau BBQ

On Wednesday 5 March, we had the pleasure of hosting the Meet the Rōpū Kaitiaki BBQ, an event that provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with the parents of our Year 9 students. It was fantastic to meet so many of you and share in the excitement of the new school year.

The evening began with a short tour of the Rōpū Kaitiaki classrooms, where parents were able to meet the Kaitiaki and have any questions answered. The Kaitiaki also took the time to explain their important role in supporting students throughout the year, giving families a deeper understanding of how we work together to support their taiohi.

Following the tour, the evening continued with a BBQ where parents, students, and staff came together to enjoy good food and great company. Our Student Leaders played a key role in the evening, helping to serve and entertain guests, which made the event even more special.



Photography Competition

Well done to Eliza Carter, who won First Prize in the Thames High School Photography Competition and the Second Prize Winner; Marilyn Simon Joseph. Both students won vouchers and a block of chocolate! Well Done !



Eliza Carter

Marilyn Simon Joseph

Debating Team

On Sunday, 16 March, two Thames High School debating teams took part in the Bay of Plenty Regional Debating Championships, showcasing their quick thinking, teamwork, and persuasive skills.

Our teams:

Senior Team: Immanuel Huwald, Lorenzo Yamamoto, and Shannara Smook

Junior Team: Luca Yamamoto, Felix Milner, Oscar Zhang, and Alex Atril

The first round featured a prepared topic, giving teams 30 minutes to strategise. In the following rounds, topics were announced moments before the debates began, testing students' ability to think on their feet under pressure.

Results:

Junior Team: 1 win

Senior Team: 2 wins — a fantastic result against strong competition

Just as the day was wrapping up, Immanuel Huwald was selected to debate in the finals. He went on to be named Most Promising Speaker and was offered a place in the Bay of Plenty Development Squad—a remarkable achievement! A special thank you goes to Immanuel and Lorenzo for their leadership in preparing the teams, running practices, and keeping the debating culture strong at Thames High School. Let me know if you'd like a version tailored for younger students or a more formal tone.



Massive Earthquake strikes!

Tolaga bay in ruins after Tuesday's earthquake, leaving residents homeless and isolated.



Last Tuesday, an earthquake struck, only 50 km southeast of Ruatoria, striking Tolaga bay hardest. It scored a massive 7.9 on the Richter scale. Much damage was done, keeping emergency services from assisting the devastated residents. The town's homes and shops were damaged or even destroyed, and many aftershocks caused roads to be undrivable. Locals are leading most of the rescue efforts.

The local businesses were badly struck. Some shops collapsed and large amounts of their stocks will be ruined. Great losses are expected, and locals are fearing they won't be able to continue. The owner of the general store, Mere Te Ariki, informs us; "I was already struggling, and now... I might have to sell. The future isn't looking good for our town."



The badly damaged general store

The new port, set to bring in much-needed income to the town, was catastrophically damaged. The project leader, Dave Keane, told us, "We've decided to discontinue the project, both because of lack of budget and ecological issues. It was recently brought to my

eyes that the port was going to damage the ocean's environment. We'll try to be more conscious of these issues in the future."

Recovery efforts have started, led by the locals. They also have the support of the army, and fortunately there have been no known deaths. Many were injured, and they were helicoptered out to Waikato hospital on Wednesday. The navy have sent a frigate to evacuate people to Gisborne, as the roads are yet to be clear. Waka Kotahi have informed us that they are estimating that the roads will be clear by Wednesday next week, possibly

under stop-go from Monday. They have advised people to cancel or postpone trips, as long wait times are to be expected.

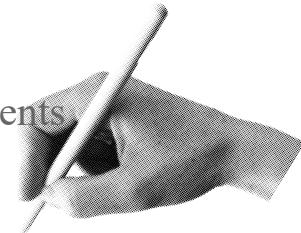
Many locals have chosen to stay behind, having to take care of livestock and deciding to help their devastated neighbours. The town mayor,

George Meyers, tells us: "Everyone supported everyone. It was a really hard time. We only got through it because of everyone's generosity and kindness."

Despite the damage, this is also a story of how, when times are hard, people can be resourceful, kind, and strong.

Esther Bullock Year 9

More articles on page 55



House Activities / Athletics

The House Activities Day / Athletics was held on Wednesday 26 February.

All who participated and earned house points made a great effort. Congratulations to HOULT for Winning overall HOUSE

RUDMAN



DORRINGTON

HOULT



ADAMS

House Activities / Athletics Results

From the Sports Leaders:

"Athletics day 2025 was a huge hit!

We had a great turnout of students and plenty participating in multiple competitions. There were some amazing efforts from students this year who were involved in competitive events, as well as plenty who were getting involved to earn house points.

There was great energy and a lot of house spirit, which was shown during the house chants. It was great to see students and

teachers rallying behind their own teams, and cheering during the house relay. It was also great to see teachers getting involved and competing against the Year 13's.

It was a very exciting day in the sun and a fun way to stay active. Thank you to all the teachers who helped run events as well as the students who helped set up and pack up."

Congratulations to our senior age group champs:

SENIOR BOY

TRACK CHAMP - FFIN OWEN 46 POINTS
TRACK RUNNER UP - AUSTIN COURT 40 POINTS
FIELD CHAMP - KIVA CLEARWATER 34 POINTS
FIELD RUNNER UP - MATTHEW WILSON 25 POINTS

OVERALL SENIOR BOY ATHLETICS CHAMPION - AUSTIN COURT 68 POINTS
OVERALL SENIOR BOY ATHLETICS RUNNER UP - FFIN OWEN 66 POINTS

SENIOR GIRL

TRACK CHAMP - JESS RENDALL 40 POINTS
TRACK RUNNER UP - ELLIE JOHNSTON 32 POINTS
FIELD CHAMP - ELLIE JOHNSTON 44 POINTS
FIELD RUNNER UP - LAWRON WAITE 20 POINTS

OVERALL SENIOR GIRL ATHLETICS CHAMPION - ELLIE JOHNSTON 76 POINTS
OVERALL SENIOR GIRL ATHLETICS RUNNER UP - JESS RENDALL 56 POINTS



Ellie Johnston

Austin Court



Alzora Taylor



Isayah Boyd

Congratulations to our junior age group champs:

JUNIOR BOY

TRACK CHAMP - JAI BRADLEY 34 POINTS
TRACK RUNNER UP - ARCHIE STOVE / THAMENEN KONG 28 POINTS
FIELD CHAMP - ARCHIE STOVE 36 POINTS
FIELD RUNNER UP - FYNN PAKI 28 POINTS

OVERALL JUNIOR BOY ATHLETICS CHAMPION - ARCHIE STOVE 64 POINTS
OVERALL JUNIOR BOY ATHLETICS RUNNER UP - FYNN PAKI 46 POINTS

JUNIOR GIRL

TRACK CHAMP - OLIVIA KENNY 22 POINTS
TRACK RUNNER UP - LUCIE MILLER 18 POINTS
FIELD CHAMP - SOPHIA HAAKMA 21 POINTS
FIELD RUNNER - CHLOE BERGERSEN 16 POINTS

OVERALL JUNIOR GIRL ATHLETICS CHAMPION - OLIVIA KENNY 36 POINTS
OVERALL JUNIOR GIRL ATHLETICS RUNNER UP - SOPHIA HAAKMA 24 POINTS



Olivia Kenny



Archie Stove

Congratulations to our intermediate age group champs:

INTERMEDIATE BOY

TRACK CHAMP - JACK MCLAREN 32 POINTS
TRACK RUNNER UP - LUCA YAMAMOTO - 31 POINTS
FIELD CHAMP - ISAYAH BOYD 50 POINTS
FIELD RUNNER UP - WALTER WIKI 36 POINTS

OVERALL INTERMEDIATE BOY ATHLETICS CHAMPION - ISAYAH BOYD 78 POINTS
OVERALL INTERMEDIATE BOY ATHLETICS RUNNER UP - WALTER WIKI 60 POINTS

INTERMEDIATE GIRL

TRACK CHAMP - GRACIE MILLER / MAIA WHITNEY 20 POINTS
FIELD CHAMP - ALZORA TAYLOR 50 POINTS
FIELD RUNNER - MAIA WHITNEY 24 POINTS

OVERALL INTERMEDIATE GIRL ATHLETICS CHAMPION - ALZORA TAYLOR 57 POINTS
OVERALL INTERMEDIATE GIRL ATHLETICS RUNNER UP - MAIA WHITNEY 44 POINTS

TV Athletics: A Record Turnout

42 students, two or more events each — our biggest crew yet at the Thames Valley Athletics Champs in Paeroa.

20 students placed Top 4, earning their spot at the WaiBOP Champs at Porritt Stadium. An outstanding achievement — *ka mau te wehi!*

WAI/BOP SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CHAMPS 2025 - RESULTS

Ellie Johnston 1st SNR Girls Triple Jump - 10.19m

Austin Court 3rd SNR Boys 800m

Isayah Boyd 1st INT Boys Triple Jump - 12.39m

WAI/BOP SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CHAMPS 2025 - RESULTS

JUNIOR GIRLS

Olivia Kenny - 13th 300m
Sapphire Ross - 13th Long Jump

JUNIOR BOYS

Archie Stove - 10th 200m, 7th Triple Jump
Jason Prak - 6th 300m, 9th Triple Jump
Jaxon Inch - 12th Long Jump

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

Alzora Taylor - 7th High Jump, 10th Javelin, 8th Discus

INTERMEDIATE BOYS

Luca Yamamoto - 10th 3000m, 12th 1500m
Jack McLaren - 12th 800m, 13th 1500m
Lincoln Donaldson - 13th 400m
Walter Wiki - 11th Long Jump
Isayah Boyd - 1st Triple Jump

SENIOR GIRLS

Ellie Johnston - 1st Triple Jump, 5th High Jump
Jess Rendall - 6th 100m, 9th High Jump

SENIOR BOYS

Austin Court - 3rd 800m
Ffin Owen - 14th 200m, 7th 400m
Lorenzo Yamamoto - 6th 3000m



North Island Success for Ellie & Isayah



Student leaders **Ellie Johnston (Year 13)** and **Isayah Boyd (Year 12)** flew the Thames flag high at the North Island Secondary Schools Athletic Champs in Hamilton.

Isayah Boyd - 2nd in Intermediate Boys Triple Jump (PB: 12.40m)

Ellie Johnston - 3rd in Senior Girls Triple Jump, 4th in Long Jump



Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival was an amazing day on Friday 14 February!

From house spirit and teamwork across year levels to staying active, making new friends, and even having a little fun at the teachers' expense – it was a day full of energy, connection, and friendly competition!

From our Sports Leaders:

"This year's swimming carnival was an amazing day for house spirit and teamwork. We held many different exciting races with plenty of participation across all year groups. It was awesome to see everyone competing and staying active as well as the friendly rivalries between each house.

Many students were making positive connections and having some fun which is always great to see. As well as the teachers vs Year 13's Race which got a few laughs.

Thank you so much to Tess and the PE department for your help in making a memorable day for all students!"



SENIOR BOY CHAMPION - AUSTIN COURT
SENIOR BOY RUNNER UP - LORENZO YAMAMOTO

SENIOR GIRL CHAMPION - LEXI ROHRLACH
SENIOR GIRL RUNNER UP - HONOKA OKAWA

INTERMEDIATE BOY CHAMPION - LUCA YAMAMOTO
INTERMEDIATE BOY RUNNER UP - NIL

INTERMEDIATE GIRL CHAMPION - MAIA WHITNEY
INTERMEDIATE GIRL RUNNER UP - CARLOTTA SCHMIDT

JUNIOR BOY CHAMPION - NATE WHITNEY
JUNIOR BOY RUNNER UP - TOBY DRYDEN

JUNIOR GIRL CHAMPION - CHLOE BERGERSEN
JUNIOR GIRL RUNNER UP - NIL

International Students



SENIOR GIRL RUNNER UP - HONOKA OKAWA 66 POINTS
SENIOR GIRL 3RD PLACE - CAROLIN HAENDLE 42 POINTS
INTERMEDIATE GIRL RUNNER UP - CARLOTTA SCHMIDT 40 POINTS



March 12: TV Swimming Champs hosted by Thames High. A big thank-you to Thames Swimming Club and Centennial Pool staff.
Ora Wiki, Ollie Stove (injured)



TV SWIMMING CHAMPS 2025

Lexi Rohrlach, Maia Whitney, Nova Sawyer, Austin Court, Lorenzo Yamamoto, Luca Yamamoto



Overall Results
Maia Whitney - INT Girls 2nd
Nova Sawyer - INT Girls 11th
Lexi Rohrlach - SNR Girls 8th
Luca Yamamoto - INT Boys 11th
Lorenzo Yamamoto - SNR Boys 2nd
Austin Court - SNR Boys 3rd

Well done!

RECORD BREAKING SWIMMER

25M Butterfly 15.41
25M Freestyle 13.66



Touch Dominance

Thames High Shines on the Touch Field

Thames Valley U16 Mixed Touch Bronze Medal Breakthrough! In early February, three of our rising stars—**Walter Wiki (Year 12)**, **Archie Stove (Year 10)**, and **Tyron Baker (Year 10)**—represented Thames Valley in the U16 Mixed Touch Team at the New Zealand Youth Nationals. After a weekend of fierce competition, the team came away with a stellar 3rd place finish.



"So proud of these three lads for stepping up and shining on the national stage!"

- Tess Watts

Senior Mixed Team Victory

Back-to-Back Champs! + Gold Coast Bound

On 6 March, our Senior Mixed 1 team made history, clinching back-to-back championships at Thames Valley!

They dominated the pools, holding four clean sheets and battled Matamata in a 3v3 drop-off for the win.

Special thanks to coach Alex Morrison—the mastermind behind the magic!

Next stop: GOLD COAST, for an international tournament this October!

Team Roster:

Ffin Owen, Caileigh Poipo, Harley Harris, Takaimo Waite, Tate Leathem, Lawron Waite, Walter Wiki, Carson Fletcher, Taylor Menzies, Chloe Paynter, Archie Stove, Isayah Boyd, Ora Wiki, Ollie Stove (injured)



Thames Valley U21 Touch Champs

Strength, Speed, and Skill!

Shout out to **Taylor Menzies (Year 13)**, **Caileigh Poipo (Year 13)**, **Ffin Owen (Year 2)**, **Walter Wiki (Year 11)**, and **Harley Harris (Year 3)** who battled it out at Bruce Pullman Park at the U21 National Champs! The squad showed grit through tough matchups.



"Every sprint, every pass, every try—our U21 reps made us proud!"

TV TOUCH 2025: We Brought the Heat!

Six Teams. Sixty-five Students. One Big WIN. A full-force effort at the Thames Valley Touch Tournament saw Thames High entering 6 teams across Junior Girls, Junior Boys, and Senior Mixed grades.

Junior Boys 1 reached the semi-finals in a thrilling drop-off!

Junior Girls brought spirit and growth—many playing their first competitive match!

Senior Mixed 1 2025 CHAMPIONS once again!



"Cheering from the sidelines, reffing games, and showing manaakitanga—our players were more than athletes."



Other Sporting Standouts

Ffin Owen

Shaun Johnson Shield Rep

This Year 11 leader continues to impress, again named to the Shaun Johnson Rugby League Shield Team. Keep an eye on this rising star!



Ffin Owen

BJJ Brilliance: Matthew Wilson

Silver medalist at the NZ Summer Slam in the under 76kg men's division—while being the lightest and youngest in his bracket! Well done, Matthew!



Matthew Wilson



Fond Farewell

Thames High farewells our much-loved Teacher in Charge of Sport, Carolyn Green, after four incredible years. Carolyn heads across the Tasman to new adventures in Australia. Thank you, Carolyn — your legacy will ride alongside every Thames athlete.



Mountain Biking Brilliance at Te Miro

In early March, 11 riders represented Thames High at the Waikato MTB XC Race at Te Miro. With climbs, grit, and Grade 2 trails, our team impressed on every lap.

🥇 **Jack McLaren (Year 11)** rode into 7th overall, and

🥇 **Blake McLaren (Year 10)** wasn't far behind in 10th place.

Special thanks to **Chris Harrison** and **Lisa Barnett** for training support and **Debbie McLaren** for help on the day. The team's now hooked and eyeing up their next challenge.



XC WBOP MTB RESULTS

U15 Boys

- 10th - Blake McLaren
- 19th - Nate Whitney
- 33rd - Luke De La Rive Box Harrison
- 34th - Toby Dryden
- 36th - Sirius Wilcox
- 38th - Billy Beaton

U17 Boys

- 7th - Jack McLaren
- 22nd - Chris Kilian
- 30th - Ryan West
- 33rd - Daniel Burchell
- 34th - Blaze Houghton

Sporting Success:

Jack McLaren (Year 11) has rocketed into the spotlight, taking 1st place U17 and 2nd overall at the Whangāmatā Blackrock Enduro MTB event — his third ever race. An epic effort!



Jack McLaren

Special thanks to **Chris Harrison**, who has been supporting our mountain biking team. We are very lucky to have such amazing community support!

Tennis Aces Shine at Waihi Beach

The beach turned on a beautiful day for the Thames Valley Secondary School Tennis Championships.

There was a large turnout, which meant the format had to be adjusted to finish close to the 3 pm time frame, which had its challenges - thanks to Waihi College as hosts for making the best of the situation.

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga sent over two van loads of players, which gained us as a Kura second place, only by 5 points behind the winners, a great achievement by our players.

Jodie Louden (Year 11) won the Intermediate Girls, **Student Leader Annabelle Hutchinson - Wong (Year 13)** & **Brooke Muir (Year 13)** defended their Senior Doubles title.

International Student **Greta Burba (Year 12)** was Runner Up in Senior Girls, **Fynn Paki (Year 9)** was Runner Up in Junior Boys to a national player and **Student Leaders Austin Court (Year 13)** & **Troy Costello (Year 13)** where Runners Up in Senior Boys Doubles.

All our other players had some wins and close losses, which showed our manaakitanga from our Kura.

- From Shannon Paki



Senior Boys BBall 3v3

Our Senior Boys Basketball team gave their all at the Thames Valley 3x3 Tournament in Te Aroha. With fierce competition, the team of **Cole Muir (Year 11)**, **Takalia Turner (Year 11)**, **Carson Fletcher (Year 11)**, and **Brandon Berger (Year 11)** showed passion and hustle throughout the day.



Active As

The Year 9 Creative Arts and Physical classes brought energy to life with movement-based art and water fitness.

Students used photography, glow sticks, and long-exposure techniques to create art inspired by action and teamwork.



THESE IMAGES CELEBRATE MOVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SHOWING THE POSITIVE ENERGY THAT SURROUNDS SPORTS OR "BALL PLAY" AND WORKING AS A TEAM.

CAPTURING MOVEMENT THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY



ACTIVE AS - ENVIRONMENT

TERM 1



taking down an invasive tree species - Acacia

Acacia seedlings got pulled out of the streambanks.

Exploring the stream above the Redwood Lane Bridge



Active As Environment

- By Ric Balfour

Term One kicked off as the second year of our Active As programme with the students getting familiar with the Karaka stream, the context of the catchment in relation to the Coromandel Ranges, Thames township and Tikapa Moana.

Exploring the stream above the Redwood Lane Bridge and then walking downstream through the flood control channel is a highlight. It turns out that very few students have had a chance to do this. Finding the tide a little higher than normal, the mud a little thicker certainly sent some students out of their comfort zone, but they survived.

The next phase was getting stuck into the macroinvertebrate survey, using the "kick sample" method and ice tray sorting by taxa. Students learnt that each species has a score that can be translated into a stream health indicator. Temperature, stream flow and turbidity were additional indicators measured for stream health assessment.

Weeding last year's planting and this year's new planting area complemented the rubbish clean-up effort the students put into both sides of the Karaka.

As an additional activity in the school holidays, Byron helped Ric take down an invasive tree species - Acacia - from the side of the stream, which helped stop the spread of future seeds. Little acacia seedlings were the most common weed pulled out of the streambanks.

A Heartfelt Goodbye from Mrs. Keet

Departing Deputy Principal Penny Keet shared an emotional farewell with the Thames High School community. Reflecting on her years at the school, she thanked staff, students, and whānau for their warmth, humour, and shared commitment to education.

Farewell from Penny – A Message to the Thames High School Community

Kia ora koutou,

When I was told the school planned to farewell me, I imagined it would be a quick clap, a wave, and I'd quietly disappear into the sunset. But, as many of you know, I'm not one to walk away without sharing a story or two. So here I am – reflecting on my time at Thames High School and the incredible community I've been privileged to be part of.

Writing this has not been easy. Every time I sat down to put my thoughts together, I was overwhelmed with emotion. There's just so much to say – so many memories, so many people, and so many moments that have left a mark on my heart.

This kura is full of energy, opportunity, and spirit. From leadership roles, work experience, kapa haka, and countless sports teams, to the arts, debating, chess, and adventures like Outward Bound and Duke of Edinburgh – Thames High School is alive with activity. There's so much to celebrate, I wouldn't know where to start, or where to stop.

A special mihi to our 2025 Year 13 students – I still remember you as fresh-faced Year 9s

when I arrived. Watching you grow has been a joy. But truly, I am proud of all our students. Every one of you brings something special to our kura.

This kura is full of energy, opportunity, and spirit. From leadership roles, work experience, kapa haka, and countless sports teams, to the arts, debating, chess, and adventures like Outward Bound and Duke of Edinburgh – Thames High School is alive with activity. There's so much to celebrate, I wouldn't know where to start, or where to stop.

A special mihi to our 2025 Year 13 students – I still remember you as fresh-faced Year 9s when I arrived. Watching you grow has been a joy. But truly, I am proud of all our students. Every one of you brings something special to our kura.

Our staff – what a remarkable bunch. From Mr. Slaney's legendary dad jokes, to Ms. Fletcher's boundless energy; from our hard-working cleaners and the comforting bear hugs from Paul the caretaker, to the infinite patience of the Student Support Office team – every day at Thames High School has been filled with warmth, laughter, and dedication.

I've worked in ten schools across the world, but landing here in Thames has felt like coming home. When I first saw the school sign, something inside me clicked – a little piece of my heart has been here ever since. And it will stay.

One of our students recently asked me, "What do you want – as a gift?" It was a big question, and after thinking deeply about it, I realised that there are eight things I'd love as parting gifts:

1. **Be happy** – Fill your life with laughter, purpose, and good friends.
2. **Challenge yourself** – Always strive to be the best version of you.
3. **Be successful** – Give your best in everything you do.
4. **Be kind** – To everyone you meet, and even those you haven't. The more love you give, the more you receive.
5. **Be good** – Let your actions and intentions reflect goodness.
6. **Be healthy** – Get outside, move your body, and take care of yourself.
7. **Choose good people** – Surround yourself with friends who lift you up and have your back.
8. **Believe in yourself** – Mistakes are part of life. Learn, grow, and always know that you can do it.

These are the best gifts you could give me – not things, but ways of being that will carry you forward into life.

I will miss you all deeply and thank you for the memories, the laughs, and the aroha. Thames High School will always hold a special place in my heart.

Ngā mihi nui, Penny

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.



Monday, 28 April—we were privileged to be part of the pōwhiri for Penny Keet as Principal at Rangitikei College in Marton. Many thanks to our senior leaders, staff, and Rōpū Kapa Haka who represented us with distinction and pride. We were all comforted knowing that our taonga (treasure), Penny, is going to be well cared for, and we made some valuable connections. Here are some photos of the day





New Deputy Principal Welcomed with Pōwhiri

The Thames High School community gathered in a moving pōwhiri to officially welcome our new Deputy Principal, Mr Gareth Wright, who has now begun his journey with us. The occasion was marked by warmth, respect, and a strong sense of unity.

In his kōrero, Mr Wright made three heartfelt commitments that left a lasting impression on all present. He pledged to prioritise the well-being and success of our students, to support staff in their continued professional growth, and to uphold and embody the core values of our kura in every aspect of his role.

His words struck a chord, signalling a promising new chapter in leadership and a deep commitment to the kaupapa of our school.

MAU MAI, HAERE MAI

Exciting Announcement - New Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Gareth Wright as our new Tumuaki Tuarua | Deputy Principal at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaranga | Thames High School. With 18 years of teaching experience and a strong background in educational leadership, Gareth is dedicated to fostering a collaborative and inclusive school environment. He values strong relationships with students, staff, and whānau, ensuring that everyone feels supported and heard. Gareth is deeply committed to student success, believing that education extends beyond the classroom. His leadership experience includes roles as Housemaster, Head of Department, Junior School Dean, and Hostel Manager. He has also contributed to school life through coaching, the Duke of Edinburgh programme, and leadership committees. An accomplished educator and athlete, Gareth has represented New Zealand in duathlon and triathlon and has coached athletes to national success.

Gareth is looking forward to joining our kura and becoming part of the school community. As he puts it:

"Tēnā koutou katoa, it is with great excitement and humility that I introduce myself as the new Deputy Principal of this vibrant kura whānau. My leadership approach is inspired by the whakatauki, "Mahia te mahi hei painga mo te iwi," which means "Work for the betterment of the people." I am dedicated to creating a kura where every ākonga (student) and kaiako (teacher) can flourish, and where we all work together in a spirit of whanaungatanga (relationship) to build a strong, inclusive community. I look forward to walking alongside you all, supporting one another, and ensuring that we continue to grow and succeed as a hapori."

Gareth will officially join us on Monday, 19 May, and we look forward to welcoming him to our school community.

Nau mai, haere mai!





Student Leaders Honour the Fallen at ANZAC Parade

Thames High School's Student Leadership Team stood proudly at this year's ANZAC Parade, representing our kura with dignity and respect as they paid tribute to former students who served in World War I and World War II.

A special moment came as Head Students Ora Wiki and Harris Elliot-Hogg delivered moving and eloquent speeches, capturing the spirit of remembrance and service. Their kōrero resonated strongly with those in attendance, with many members of the community sharing their appreciation for the maturity and thoughtfulness shown.



Harris Elliot-Hogg's Speech:

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou – we will remember them.

We all gather here today because of what they did.

110 years ago today, the first soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army landed on the shores of Gallipoli—New Zealand's first engagement in World War I. It was a day of confusion, camaraderie, wavering courage, and unimaginable horror.

Today, we honour those soldiers who lost their lives for our country.

We honour the nurses and medical aides who were killed in military action.

We honour those who came back, changed by the experiences and suffering they endured. Every ANZAC Day—from the greatest memorial to the simplest speech spoken in a backyard—is a commemoration of the far too many names whose stories ended on a memorial plaque.

Today is a day for learning their stories. It is a day for remembering the fallen and for acknowledging those who are still serving our country. Today is a day to remember every name that was once familiar—faces of our loved ones who may have never returned home—and to remember one of the greatest sacrifices our men and women made: to serve and protect our country. Because of their bravery, we can live in a world knowing they made a difference.

I stand before you all today wearing these medals in honour of my close family members who earned and received them for fighting and helping our nation in World War II.

Andrew Tartie McGregor, a relative of mine, fought in the 28th Māori Battalion.

He landed on the beaches of Gallipoli and miraculously returned home two years after the war had ended. I also wear the medals of my great-grandfather, who went to war not to kill but to help—so they gave him the job of being a truck driver, carrying either soldiers or the supplies they needed. I owe everything to these men in my family who fought—who left behind everything and everyone they loved to serve the ANZACs.

We as a country owe everything to the men who served—the boys as young as 14 who went to war not knowing whether they would ever return home.

To our fallen veterans, and to those who stand with us today: kia ora.

Thank you for what you have done.

To those veterans who are still with us, and to those who passed on the battlefields—you are all heroes to us.





Northland Journey Brings Learning to Life

A group of Thames High School students recently embarked on an unforgettable learning journey through Te Tai Tokerau (Northland), designed to support and enrich their studies in History, Geography, and Te Reo Māori. The trip immersed students in real-world contexts, offering first-hand experiences at some of Aotearoa's most significant historical and cultural sites.

From the outset, the purpose of the trip was clear: to bring classroom learning to life. Students conducted research in situ, practiced Te Reo Māori in meaningful settings, and engaged deeply with Aotearoa's past and physical landscape.

History and Geography in the Field

Students explored Northland's natural and human history through observation and guided learning. Coastal features, vegetation, and patterns of land use became vivid tools for understanding geographical processes, while visits to early settlement sites added a tangible dimension to historical learning.

Te Reo Māori in Action

Throughout the trip, students were encouraged to engage with Te Reo Māori in context—using and hearing the language in culturally significant spaces. This strengthened their confidence and connection to the language in an authentic, living environment.

Ruapekapeka Pā

A highlight was the visit to Ruapekapeka, one of the most strategically significant pā sites of the Northern Wars. Guided by Wiley, a trustee of the site, students gained insight into Māori resistance and the innovative defences used during the conflict. The site left a lasting impression on all who visited.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds

Students experienced a powerful guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, including the museum, Busby's house, the wharenuia, and the historic flagstaff. This experience deepened their understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and its enduring impact on our nation.

Living History in Russell and Kerikeri

Exploring Paihia, Kororāreka (Russell), Flagstaff Hill, Kerikeri's Stone Store, Mission Station, and Kororipo Pā allowed students to connect with New Zealand's colonial past in a direct and meaningful way.

Trip Reflections

Teacher Jen Fletcher shared updates along the way:

"Lots of driving in crazy traffic, but we made it. A beautiful pōwhiri and a stunning marae welcome made this place feel like home. We met some of the amazing people from Whaea Ra's life and reconnected with others. The students studied in the evenings, showing real dedication despite busy days."

The final day included a moving farewell to their Northland hosts and one last stop at Ruapekapeka.

"The ingenuity of the people of Ruapekapeka was incredible—something to be admired," Fletcher noted.

This trip left students not only with a deeper academic understanding but also with a stronger cultural connection to Aotearoa. It was a journey of learning, reflection, and discovery that won't soon be forgotten.



Fun, Fitness & Fierce Competition

The annual Thames High School Cross Country event was a lively affair, held during the final period of the school day. Students had the option to either take part in the competitive race or enjoy a relaxed house fun run – and plenty chose to do both with great spirit and energy.

Congratulations to all our 2025 Cross Country Champions! From seasoned runners to enthusiastic first-timers, it was fantastic to see such wide participation. Special recognition goes to the following standout athletes who claimed top honours in their categories:

Senior Champions

Boys: **Austin Court** (Champion), **Matthew Wilson** (Runner-Up)
Girls: **Jess Rendall** (Champion), **Milla Sawyer** (Runner-Up)

Intermediate Champions

Boys: **Jack McLaren** (Champion), **Blaze Houghton** (Runner-Up)
Girls: **Zara Chamberlain** (Champion), **Carlotta Schmidt** (Runner-Up)

Junior Champions

Boys: **Jai Bradley** (Champion), **Luke De La Rive Box** (Runner-Up)
Girls: **Sharleigha Burton** (Champion), **Olivia Lamont** (Runner-Up)

And of course, what would cross country be without house pride? The house points were hard fought, with Rudman storming ahead to claim victory on 276 points, followed by Hoult (206), Dorrington (148), and Adams (56).

An afternoon of muddy shoes, high fives, and house chants – cross country 2025 was one to remember!





Hip-Hop Mentor Hits the Right Notes with Music Students

Renowned Artist Mazbou Q Inspires Creativity and Confidence During Two-Day Workshop.

The sound of creativity echoed through the music department this term as students were treated to an unforgettable learning experience with none other than NZ Music Commission Mentor Mazbou Q. Over two jam-packed days, the acclaimed hip-hop artist, producer, and educator worked closely with senior Music classes and selected Year 10 students in a series of engaging workshops.

With a focus on digital audio workstations (DAWs), music production, rapping, composition, and DJing, Mazbou Q brought both expertise and infectious energy to the classroom. Drawing on his diverse musical background—spanning classical, heavy metal, and West African Highlife—Mazbou Q introduced students to the complex layers of hip-hop artistry, blending musicality with powerful social commentary.

Not only is Mazbou Q a standout performer in the Aotearoa hip-hop scene, but he has also delivered workshops at prestigious institutions such as Harvard University,



Berklee College of Music, and New York University. Our students were fortunate to tap into the wisdom of an international talent with deep roots in Igbo-Nigerian culture and a global vision.

One highlight was the collaborative composition of an original rap song, which students created and produced together. The piece, which integrates technical production skills, will contribute towards their NCEA assessments—a truly authentic learning experience.

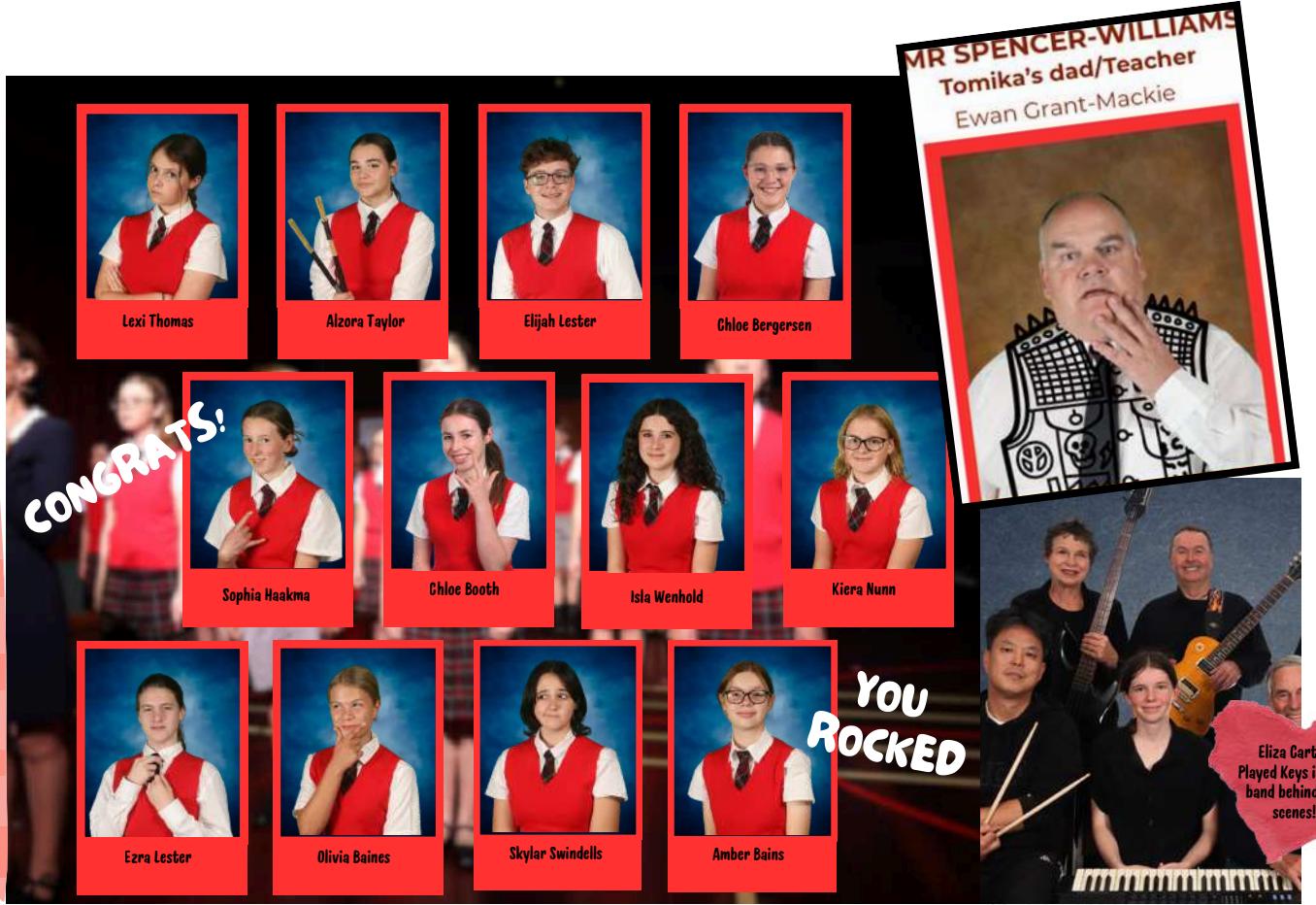
Dr Voice reflected on the impact of the visit: "It was wonderful to see students who are usually quiet come out of their shells. Mazbou Q's presence helped them feel confident and creative."

From the recording booth to the beat drops, every moment was packed with inspiration. A massive thanks to Mazbou Q for not only sharing his knowledge, but also sparking passion in the next generation of Kiwi musicians.

To learn more about his work, check out Mazbou Q online or follow him on Instagram.



Staff & Students In School of Rock



www.valleyprofile.co.nz

May 20, 2025, THE VALLEY PROFILE 09

ENTERTAINMENT

Rockin' out at the Civic with Thames MAD musical

REVIEW

School of Rock

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

The Thames Civic Centre was rocking out on May 17, as Thames Music and Drama took the stage for the opening night of its rock musical *School of Rock*.

Set in a prestigious fictional school called Horace Green, the musical follows the story of Dewey Finn, a down-and-out rock guitarist. Dewey is strapped for cash and lies his way into a substitute teaching position - where he turns order on its head, bonds with his students through music, and finds new purpose in life.

The slacker-turned-educator was played by Ruth Germon, and she brought an excitable charm to the role. It's a tough task to keep up the rock-star energy for two full hours, but Ruth's Dewey didn't lose pace as she belted out number after number. Initially loud and brash, she let Dewey's softer side shine through almost immediately as the character brought each student out of their shell, finding that spark of talent within each and helping them shine.

And boy, did they shine! *School of Rock* might be about Dewey, but the show's appeal lies in the youthful, energetic, and talented children's ensemble. Thames Music and Drama has done a fantastic job here



Ruth Germon as Dewey.

with their classroom casting.

Each student's personality was on-point, from Billy the wannabe-fashionista to Summer the strait-laced, bossy teacher's pet. Tomika, played by Lena Rumble, was a particularly high point of the show, busting out some impressive vocals at the beginning of the second act.

But it was the band members - bassist Cody, played by Elijah Lester; drummer Freddy Hamilton, played by Alzora Taylor; keyboardist Lauren, played by Chloe Bergersen; and lead guitarist Zack Mooneyham, played by Sophia Haakma - who really stole the show.

The quartet played their instruments live throughout the show, and pulled off some impressive vocals to boot. As Dewey's new bandmates, their final performance at the Battle of the Bands was fun, energetic, and wouldn't have been out of place at a real rock concert.

The cast was rounded out by



It was the talented students who really stole the show.

a bevy of adults, who played the parents, teachers, and Dewey's roommates. These roles were solidly in the "supporting role" category, and through no fault of their own, the adult-centric scenes at the beginning of the show felt a little staid - their portions of the plot serving mainly to establish backstory and push Dewey and the students together. However, it gave the rebellious band something to push back against, and provided a nice

counterpoint to the chaotic and over-the-top energy of the back half of the show.

The adults had their chance to shine later on, with a well-portrayed contrast between their ambitions and their children's feelings in the poignant "If Only You Would Listen", and in Ned's eventual breakdown as he learned to stand up for himself.

Rosalie's transition from stick-in-the-mud principal to supportive co-conspirator was also

Photos: SUPPLIED

a sweet touch, helping dispel the last of the disapproval as everybody finally learned to embrace their inner rock.

Overall, the show was loads of fun with some fun surprises sprinkled in. No deep, profound theatre here: just good laughs, rockin' music, and a thoroughly entertaining evening.

DETAILS: Thames Music and Drama's *School of Rock*. May 17-24 at the Thames Civic Centre. See www.thamesmad.co for details.





Kumara Harvest at Te Kura o Te Kauaeeranga

On Tuesday 6 May, a group of tauira (students) from Thames High School lent a hand at Thames South School with their hauhake (kumara harvest)!

The kumara – six different varieties! – were grown from seed by the primary students, nurtured into seedlings, and finally harvested with care.

Thames High School students, along with Manukura Māori Leaders Ora Wiki and Lawron Waite, had an awesome time pulling, digging, and collecting many kilograms of kumara.

As a thank you, our students were treated to a delicious, freshly made lunch by the team at Thames South. Ka pai!



Matariki Celebration

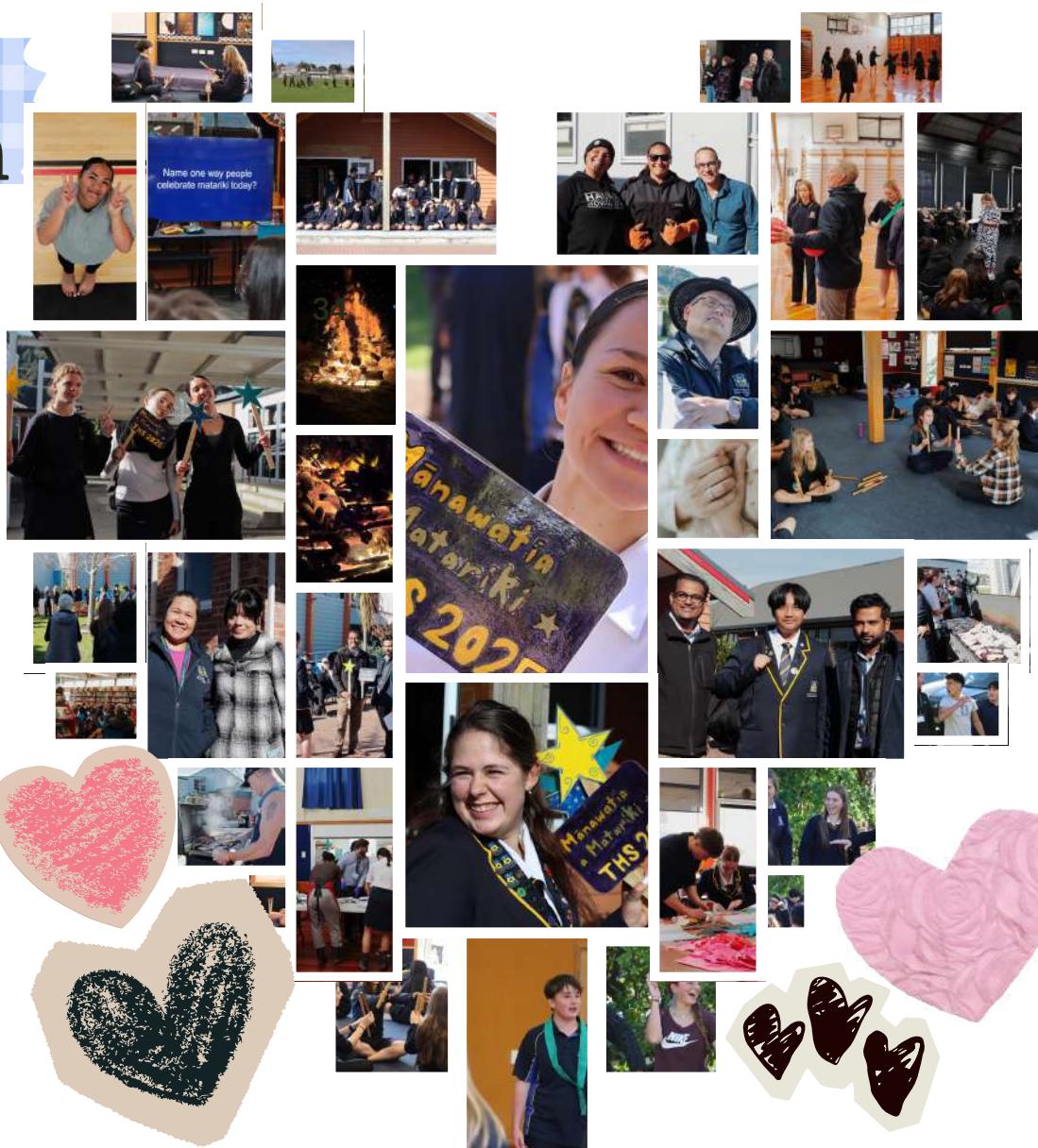
Thank you to everyone who joined us on Thursday to celebrate Matariki. It was a day filled with kohitahanga – unity – and we loved seeing our student-led activities enjoyed by taiohi, whānau, kaumātua, tamariki and rangatahi. What a privilege to come together as a community!

Unfortunately, our hāngī didn't cook as expected. It was lifted 30 minutes before serving time, and our amazing staff, board members, students, and whānau did all they could to finish the kai using BBQs, ovens, and stove tops. While it wasn't what we had hoped, many meals were able to be served – cooked with aroha and care.

We're also grateful our reduced school lunch order helped ensure many were fed. Extra kai was shared with local whānau and a church group – continuing the spirit of manaakitanga. Our hāngī team started at 4.30am and put so much into the day. We truly appreciate their dedication. We regret any disappointment caused.

Ngā manaakitanga o Matariki ki a koutou katoa – may the blessings of Matariki be with you and your whānau.

–Michael Hart / Principal



Great Gatsby

On Saturday 7 June, our senior students stepped back in time for the 2025 Senior Ball, elegantly themed The Great Gatsby. The evening was filled with glamour, fun, and unforgettable memories.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the night such a success:

TCA Fitness Club for generously lending tables

Make Your Day Events for their beautiful decorations

Thames Music & Drama Tech Crew for expert lighting and sound

Shadow Productions NZ and **One of a Kind Photography** for capturing the magic

A special shout-out to our Ball Committee—you did an amazing job pulling it all together!

Congratulations to our award winners:

BALL QUEEN: STORM RATIMA

BALL KING: HARLEY HARRIS

PRINCESS: ABBYGAIL PATTERSON

PRINCE: TAYO ELUSANMI

CUTEST COUPLES: BOSTON SAVAGE & CAILEIGH POIPOI, LAWRON WAITE & DYLAN BLOOR

BEST DRESSED: MUSA NDLOVU

BEST SUIT: KYZAIAH TIMOTHY-CORRY

CUTEST COUPLES: BOSTON SAVAGE & CAILEIGH POIPOI, LAWRON WAITE & DYLAN CAMERON

BEST DRESSED: TAYLOR MENZIES

BEST SUIT: KYZAIAH TIMOTHY-CORRY

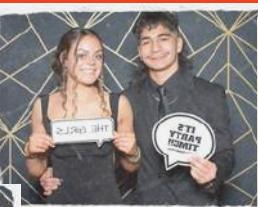
BEST HEELS: MUSA NDLOVU

BEST TIE: KIVA CLEARWATER

BEST DRESSED TEACHER: MR WRIGHT

BEST RIDE: PALARRY ROUS & CO. – THEY TURNED UP WITH A COUCH AND A DISCO BALL!

What a spectacular night—thank you to everyone who helped make it so special!















Winter Sports in Full Swing

Thames High School has hit the ground running this winter with an impressive line-up of teams. This season we are proudly fielding:

- 2 x 6-aside Hockey teams
- 1 x 11-aside Hockey team
- 2 x Senior Girls Volleyball teams
- 3 x Football teams
- 3 x Rugby teams
- 5 x Netball teams
- 5 x Basketball teams

Behind every whistle, sub, and sideline cheer stands our incredible group of volunteer coaches and managers. A heartfelt thank you to all who give their time and energy—our athletes couldn't do it without you. Parents and caregivers, your support with transport continues to make a huge difference too.



Big Win for Mr Harrison

Thames High School extends warm congratulations to Head of PE, **David "Harry" Harrison**, on his appointment as Head Coach of the New Zealand Heartland XV Rugby Team. An outstanding achievement, and one that makes us very proud.



Basketball Reps Impress

Over King's Birthday weekend, Thames High players stepped up at the Mid North Island Basketball Champs in Tauranga.

U18 Boys reached the semi-finals. Players: **Carson Fletcher (Year 11)**, **Obe Fraser (Year 11)**, **Cole Muir (Year 11)**, **Tyler Smith (Year 10)**.

U16 Girls showed great skill and teamwork. Players: **Pearl Newton (Year 9)**, **Dimple Martin (Year 11)**, **Bella McCulloch (Year 11)**, **Lukka McCulloch (Year 11)**, **Simrat Kaur (Year 10)**.

Well done to all our basketball stars!



Boxing Bro's Shine

Cameron Killian (Year 13) and **Chris Killian (Year 10)** fought bravely at the North Island Golden Gloves Championships in Tauranga. Cameron powered through to the finals, securing 2nd place overall. Both brothers train tirelessly with the Never Surrender Boxing Club—proof of where hard work leads.

Squash Court Victories

From Sport Leader Austin Court. (You must commend him for his "artistic flair")

Felix [Milner Year 10], the academic weapon, who studied the art of squash for years, enters his first tournament and dominates the court of Division 3, taking second place.

Jep [Donaldson Year 12], the coastal surfer, carves up the opposition in the ocean and the court, winning the title for Division 2.

Ellie [Johnston Year 13], the gymnast, gives squash a go and plays in Division 3, running circles around her opponents.

Troy [Costello Year 13], the gym rat, progressively overloads the opposition with pressure and continues to benchpress after coming second in Division 2.

League Honour for Ffin Owen

Sports Student Leader **Ffin Owen (Year 12)** proudly represented Counties Manukau Māori U17s at the Aotearoa Māori League Nationals in Rotorua. Ka pai, Ffin—an excellent achievement!



Active As: Virtual Reality

As part of our Active As programme, Thames High School has just purchased 20 Virtual Reality headsets to help get students moving in new and exciting ways!

Active As is all about encouraging physical activity to support mental and emotional wellbeing. These VR headsets are a game-changer—especially for students who might feel shy or lack confidence in traditional sports settings.

With VR, students can experience moving their bodies in a fun, safe, and non-intimidating environment!



On June 4, Thames High proudly hosted the Haureki Plains Regional Chess Tournament. Thirty-eight students from nine schools competed in a day full of strategy and sportsmanship.

Our Thames High team placed top senior team, with standout individual results:

Alex Atrill (Year 9) – 6 points, Top Senior Player

Jay Majurey (Year 13) – 5.5 points

Kim Ju Taing (Year 11) – 5.5 points

Immanuel Huwald (Year 12) – 5 points

Byron Johnson (Year 9) – 4 points

Cleo Challis (Year 10) – 3.5 points

The team now advances to the National Teams Final in October, while Alex, Jay, and Kim Ju will also compete individually in the Champions Trophy.



Tough Guy & Girl

Year 13 PE & Elevate Students in Action!

The Year 13 PE students, along with Year 12 and 13 Elevate students, took part in a full-day assessment at the Ngāruawahia Christian Youth Camp in Hamilton.

They worked hard to complete Achievement Standard 91501, demonstrating leadership, teamwork, and physical skill in an outdoor setting.

A special shoutout to Matthew Wilson, who came 2nd overall, and our Sports Leader, Austin Court, who placed 4th overall – outstanding achievements!



Checkmate at Chess Champ



Making a Splash at Waikato Champs

Thames High School's swim squad made waves at the Waikato Secondary School Swimming Championships, finishing 11th overall out of 22 schools.

The team:

Lexi Rhorlach (Year 13)
Nova Sawyer (Year 11)
Maia Whitney (Year 10)
Lorenzo Yamamoto (Year 13)
Luca Yamamoto (Year 10)
Austin Court (Year 13)

Top results:

Lorenzo Yamamoto – 3rd place, 50m Butterfly
Maia Whitney – 2nd place, 50m Backstroke
Congratulations to all six swimmers for representing Thames with pride!



Rugby Pathway for Archie Stove

Congratulations to Archie Stove, who has been selected for the Thames Valley U14 Boys Squad. Archie will be travelling to Taupō during the holidays—an exciting step forward in his rugby journey.



Battling the Rain at Boulton Cup

Our Open A Netball Team faced off in the annual Boulton Cup tournament at Matamata Netball Centre—despite torrential rain.

Results: 1 win, 2 losses, 1 draw.

More importantly, the tournament strengthened team combinations and boosted the confidence of younger players as they prepare for the upcoming UNISS tournament.



Referees Step Up

Not only do Thames High students play, but they also help make games happen.

Carson Fletcher (Year 11), **Tyler Smith (Year 10)**, and **Eli O'Neil (Year 10)** all refereed at the Chiefs Primary Schools Tackle 5s Tournament in Rotorua this week. Their professionalism and leadership were praised throughout the day.

Rock Climbing at Panmure Extreme Edge on Wednesday 18 June.

The OED3 students did really well with their assessments and represented Thames High School beautifully.



Principal's Message: The Gift of Gratitude

As a staff, we began the week by sharing something we are grateful for—big or small. While there are always challenges and things that can weigh us down, taking a few minutes to reflect on even two or three things we're thankful for can help shift our perspective.

At the end of our briefing, our Tumuaki Tuarua, Mr Gareth Wright, laid down a wero (challenge) for us all—to share a gratitude with someone. It might be something they've done, or simply appreciating the kind of person they are—for instance, someone who always brings cheer.

Gratitude is a gift: lovely to receive, even more meaningful to give.

A whakataukī (Māori proverb) that speaks to this is:

"E iti noa ana, nā te aroha." – Although it is small, it is given with love.

Mānawatia a Matariki

This time of year, we pause to acknowledge and celebrate the Māori New Year, marked by the rising of the Matariki star cluster in the eastern winter sky. In Hauraki, we are guided by the words of Korohere Ngāpō (from Ko Matariki ki Hauraki), who reminds us:

Matariki is strongly linked to the rivers, seas, mountains, forests and gardens. It is an important time to uphold our traditional practices, farewell our loved ones, and welcome the dawn of the new Māori year.

It is a time for reflection, remembrance, and looking to the future.

Farewell to Shannon Paki

Over the past two years, as part of the Ministry of Education's Te Hononga | Check and Connect initiative, under for our Kāhui Ako, Shannon Paki has worked alongside our young people across our primary schools and here at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeeranga | Thames High School, making a lasting impact on the lives of those he has supported.

Through his mahi, Shannon has helped many students navigate challenges, build resilience, and make successful transitions into high school life. His approachable and supportive manner, along with his ability to connect with



students in a genuine and meaningful way, has been valued by staff, students, and whānau alike.

At our recent School Assembly, Shannon was honoured with a powerful haka led by our students—a reflection of the deep respect and appreciation he has earned. Shannon also shared heartfelt words, leaving us inspired and reminded of the importance of connection, resilience, and leadership.

A whakataukī that reflects Shannon's impact is:

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini."

(My strength is not as an individual, but as part of the collective.)

Shannon's work has truly been about walking alongside others, lifting them up, and reminding us all that together we are stronger. His mahi has reflected our values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and whakamana in particular.

We trust we'll see Shannon back at our school in the future—as a parent, a supporter, and who knows what else lies ahead!

Ngā mihi nui, Shannon—thank you for everything you have done for our students and our kura.



Farewell to Alana Salisbury

After 13 years of dedicated service at Thames High School, we farewell and acknowledge Alana Salisbury, who has been a valued member of our Learning Support team. Alana has worked part-time throughout her time with us, providing support, care, and encouragement to many students with additional learning needs, including our ORS-funded students. More recently, she has also contributed to targeted literacy support, helping students build their skills and confidence.

Her decision to continue working well beyond the typical retirement age reflects her passion for education and her commitment to the students she has supported over the years. Alana's kindness, patience, and gentle manner have made a lasting impact on those she has worked with.

We thank Alana for her many years of service and wish her all the very best for a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Ngā mihi nui, Alana – you leave with our gratitude and aroha.



Farewell to Mrs Kiryn Curnow

After a year of refreshment leave to support her whānau, Kiryn has made the decision to relocate to Auckland. We acknowledge with deep gratitude her seventeen years of service to Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeeranga | Thames High School.

Kiryn's dedication to teaching Biology and Science, her leadership in football, and her contributions to school productions, the ball, and wider school life have enriched the experiences of countless taiohi.



We also thank her sincerely for her three years of service as the elected Staff Representative on the Board, where her voice and insights were highly valued. As she moves on to new opportunities, we wish

Kiryn and her whānau every success and happiness. Ngā mihi nui

Rangatahi Voices Awards: Brooklyn Jiang

Huge congratulations to Service & Welfare Student Leader Brooklyn Jiang.

Brooklyn has been recognised at the Rangatahi Voices Awards, hosted by Rangatahi Voices – a youth-led initiative supported by the [Waikato Regional Council](#). These awards celebrate young leaders, creatives, and changemakers from across the region, and Brooklyn truly stood out among a huge number of inspiring nominations.

We are so proud of Brooklyn's incredible mahi and the positive impact he continues to make in our school and wider community. The awards ceremony took place on 24 May 2025 at the Waikato Regional Council in Hamilton.

Ka mau te wehi!



www.valleyprofile.co.nz

July 15, 2025, THE VALLEY PROFILE 07

Thames High changemaker wins award

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Brooklyn Jiang's motivation to take initiative came from something he learned this year: "nothing will happen unless you do something about it".

The Thames High School service and environment student leader for 2025 told *The Profile* he saw a lot of young people at his school who showed initiative in what they loved to do and was "inspired by them".

The 16-year-old's ambitions were to receive an excellence endorsement in most of his courses and in NCEA Level 2, to be head boy next year and study engineering at Auckland University when he finished school, he said.

"I want to develop either sustainable modes of transport or work at Rocket Lab."

But in the meantime, the year-12 student's role as service leader was something he actioned as a student volunteer ambassador, where he promoted and encouraged his peers to volunteer in the community.

Brooklyn currently has more than 450 hours of volunteering up his sleeve.

"I'm also an observer on the Seagull Centre Trust, and I observe their monthly meetings



THS student Brooklyn Jiang and his family celebrate his Rangatahi Voices Award.

Photo: SUPPLIED

and give valuable feedback to them."

His work with the trust is something that led him to snap up an award for Community Contribution at the Waikato Youth Awards, hosted by a

youth-led initiative called Rangatahi Voices on May 24 at the Waikato Regional Council.

The awards recognise and celebrate young creatives, leaders and changemakers from across the Waikato region.

Brooklyn said it was really hard to put into words what he felt but "I still can't believe it".

"It was because of my role as a student volunteer ambassador and that I built a relationship between my school and

the Seagull Centre with their Natural Organic Waste Solutions, or NOW for short.

"This is a trial to convert food waste into protein-filled animal feed by farming black soldier fly larvae in a safe, hygienic manner."

Brooklyn said on the same day they had a school meeting on ways to minimise food waste from school, he went to the Seagull Centre Trust meeting and they discussed the project and their need for sources of food waste.

He said it was a productive day because "I put the puzzle pieces together".

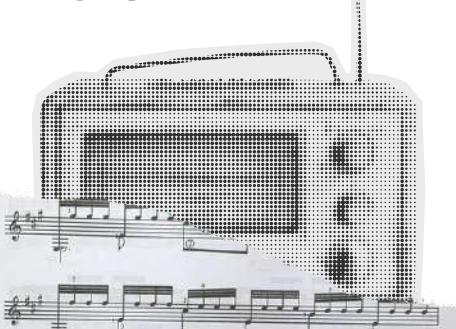
The young leader said he was persistent and liked to be busy, so after he received his Rangatahi Voices Award, he was motivated to start up Green Leaders - a small group of students who aim to make their school more sustainable.

"We brainstorm and propose ideas to lower our carbon footprint. The big one was to install solar panels on our school roof."

Brooklyn said the group submitted their ideas in an application for the Zayed Sustainability Prize, which is up to USD\$150,000, and will be announced in October.

"My goal in this role is to make our school and our local community a little greener."

NZ Modern School of Music Awards: Luca Yamamoto



Luca Yamamoto (Year 10) has done it again at the NZ Modern School of Music Counties Annual Competition!

He entered five guitar categories, winning GOLD for "Pica Pica" (Own Choice) and "Guitar Boogie" (Test Piece), and SILVER for "Distant Memories" (Composition) and Sight Reading. He also took home the Davis Cup Trophy for top under-16 guitarist! We're lucky to have Luca share his talents at many of our school events – and he also did incredibly well in this competition last year, too.

Ka rawe, Luca!

Waikato Young Leaders Day

89

On Wednesday 25 June, nine of our Year 9 student leaders attended WYLD - Waikato Young Leaders Day - a powerful event designed to inspire and motivate emerging leaders.

They heard from a range of amazing speakers across education, arts, music, innovation, and sport.

A special shoutout to our own senior leaders, **Izzy** and **Ora**, who proudly represented Thames High School as guest speakers, sharing their own leadership journeys with the next generation!



Careers Department Update

Twelve students have successfully completed the learner driver course with Gavin from Thames Driver Training. Thanks to the generous support of the Thames Community Centre and their sponsors, the course and learner's licence test were fully funded for students who have completed or will complete 15 hours of community service.

Well done to all involved!



Logan Murphy (Year 12) has been gaining great hands-on experience during his work placement with Predator Free Hauraki. Over the past few weeks, he's been involved in track cutting, wilding pine management, pest control, and general bush work. It's been an awesome opportunity to get out in the field and learn practical conservation skills.



Music Department Update

Dr Voice shared her beautiful collection of taonga pūoro (traditional Māori flutes) with a group of Year 9 students and our friends from Goldfields. It was fascinating to hear the origin stories behind some of the instruments and learn about their traditional uses. The following day, students had a great time creating their own in the Art Department –



Auckland Writers Festival

On Wednesday 14 May, a large group of our senior students spent the day at the Auckland Writers Festival, where they heard kiwi and international authors speak on a range of topics, from Shakespeare to speculative fiction. All of the authors spoke well and left us with inspiring ideas.



Art Department Update

Our second term Year 9 students have been using the artists John Pule and Zio Ziegler for inspiration to make artwork about Taniwhas and our whakapapa . We even looked at Paul Gauguin's painting which roughly asks the 3 questions 'who are we', 'where do we come from' and 'where are we going' .



Here's some work from Ms. Ferguson's Year 10 Art class



In the first week back to Term 3, we were privileged to welcome a group of university students currently studying medicine and health across Aotearoa. They spent time with some of our enthusiastic learners, offering valuable insights into what tertiary study in these fields truly involves. It was an inspiring and informative experience for everyone who took part!

FUTURE HEALTH HEROES IN THE MAKING



Four lucky students were selected to "embark" on a Flight Attendant 2-day course last week, where they stepped into the shoes of a flight attendant and learnt about the airline and tourism industry.

Thank you to the International Travel College of New Zealand for this opportunity, and to Hauraki Plains College for hosting. We are sure they learnt a lot from this experience!

At the first Junior assembly of Term 3, a group of exceptional students were recognised with pins for their outstanding contributions to the community—both within kura and out in the wider world. We are incredibly proud of the positive impact they're making and the way they continue to uplift others through their actions and leadership.

Ka mau te wehi!



On Monday 28 July, and coincidentally Pyjama Day at school, a group of our senior students headed over to the Wintec Waikato Trades Academy Open Day at the Kopu Campus. They got stuck into hands-on activities across the three courses offered on-site — and we were especially impressed with some of the braiding skills shown off in the hair and beauty session!

The Waikato Trades Academy is open to Year 12 and 13 students and offers an awesome opportunity to gain practical, real-world experience in trades like building, engineering, automotive, and hair & beauty — all while still at school!

Students attend one day a week at a Wintec campus, working toward NCEA Levels 2 and 3 and building a direct pathway into further training, apprenticeships, or employment.

On Friday 25 July, two lucky students had the awesome opportunity to visit Thames Radiology. Ashleigh from the radiology team gave us an inspiring tour, shared insights into careers in Radiology, and even let the students have a go with the X-ray machine!

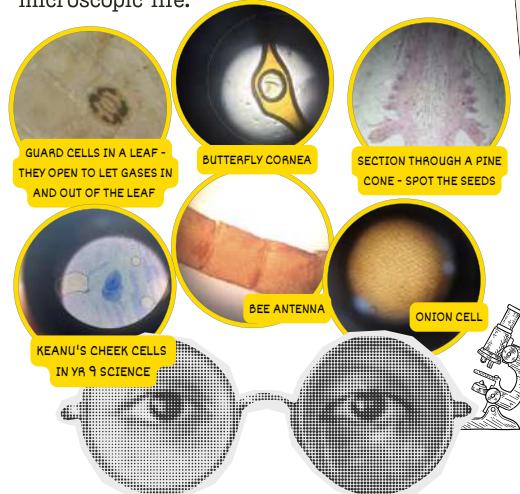
We now have two very enthusiastic students seriously considering this as a future career path.

Ngā mihi to Ashleigh and the team for supporting our rangatahi — ko te hapori, ko mātau: our community, our strength.



Junior Science

Students in Year 9 Science are using microscopes to get a closer look at the world around us. These slides capture some of the incredible things they've discovered that are normally too small for the naked eye to see. They've been experimenting with different samples as part of their studies on microscopic life.



Visit from Dr. Raikwar

We were thrilled to welcome back ex-student, Dr. Lalit Raikwar, who generously gave his time to run a hands-on suturing workshop for our senior students during Spirit Week this term (hence the mufti).

Those interested in a medical career had an incredible opportunity to learn and practice this vital skill under the guidance of a professional.

Thank you, Dr. Raikwar, for this invaluable and insightful experience!



Spirit Week Brings Fun, Creativity, and Community

This year's Spirit Week was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of our senior student leaders, who put together an action-packed week full of activities and themed dress days. One of the highlights was the introduction of Rhyme Without Reason—a first for our school—which encouraged students to pair up in rhyme-inspired costumes. The creativity on display was impressive, with clever duos such as skater and waiter, rapper and napper, and tradie and lady keeping everyone entertained and guessing.

Alongside the dress-up days, the week included a variety of activities such as quizzes, dancing, and even a school-wide hunt for mini ducks. The energy and enthusiasm shown by everyone made for a fun and memorable week.

A big thank you goes to all who joined in the spirit, and especially to the senior leaders for their hard work in making this week such a highlight of the school year.

The House Leaders had the privilege of organising our annual House Spirit Week, a fun-filled series of events that built school spirit and earned house points.

We started on Monday with a cozy Pajama Day and a lively Spelling Bee, which was a great success. On Tuesday, a big game of Bingo in the hall drew a fantastic turnout, with students excited to win prizes.

Wednesday was Crazy Hair Day, and the creativity on display was amazing! At lunch, students danced their hearts out with Just Dance in the hall.

On Thursday, our dress-up theme was "Rhyme Without Reason," with fun costume pairings like "PJs and DJs" or "Lady and a Tradie." We also launched a new lunchtime game, "Hide Duckies, Find Duckies," where students searched for hidden ducks to win prizes. It was a huge hit! This was a new addition to this year's lineup, and we look forward to seeing it enjoyed in the years ahead.

We wrapped up on Friday with students proudly wearing their house colours and competing in our annual House Competition Rotations, with games for all ages and abilities.

Overall, House Spirit Week 2025 was a big success. It was amazing to see such enthusiasm and creativity from our students, and we're so proud to have been part of making it all happen!

-Abbygail Patterson
House Student Leader



Art and History Students Explore the Cultural Capital

Our senior Art and History students have just returned from an unforgettable four-day trip to Wellington, the cultural and political heart of Aotearoa.

The group had the unique opportunity to visit Parliament House, where they viewed the national art collection and observed Prime Minister's Question Time in action—an eye-opening experience into the workings of government.

Art students were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of Weta Workshop, learning how world-famous film props are created. They also took part in a creative mural treasure hunt, engaging with the city's vibrant public art scene.

A highlight for both groups was their visit to Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand's national museum, where they explored a wide range of exhibitions that brought art, history, and culture to life.

Meanwhile, History students visited the moving Holocaust exhibition, deepening their understanding of global history through powerful first-hand accounts and historical artefacts.

The trip offered a rich blend of hands-on learning, creative inspiration, and meaningful reflection—an amazing way to experience the capital city.

A huge thank you to the amazing teachers who organised and accompanied our students on this trip — Ms Ferguson, Mr Rogers, Mr Major, and Ms Managh. Your time, effort, and support made this experience possible!

Student Leader Romie Dargaville had this to say about the trip:

"MY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WELLINGTON TRIP WERE SEEING ALL THE NICE ART AT PARLIAMENT, AROUND THE STREETS AND ESPECIALLY TE PAPA."

I ALSO LOVED GOING TO THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, AND THEY MADE ME THINK ABOUT GOING INTO POLITICS: IT WAS ALL THE ARGUING AND YELLING THAT PIQUED MY INTEREST.

THE DINNERS WERE SO GOOD AT THE NIGHT MARKETS, AND I REALLY ENJOYED MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS IN THEIR HOSTEL ROOMS."



Biology Field Tip: Karakka Track

On Wednesday 30 July, a group of 15 students with two teachers went up the Karaka Track to carry out an investigation into the distribution of plants and the ecological factors affecting the distribution of the plants. The focus of the trip was data collection and hands-on learning. The trip involved exploring a local natural ecosystem, where students engaged in observing and recording data on plant species and factors affecting their survival.

Although the weather started off looking wet, the clouds lifted, and it became much more pleasant. There was some initial panic when the class arrived due to the tree felling and privet clearing work underway (see tree chop photo), but the workers cleared a path through, and access to the study area was gained.

Thankfully the study area was away from the stream, which was roaring due to the recent heavy rain. However, a few students still managed to get a decent covering of mud as they slipped and slid through the bush.

The experience also promoted teamwork, persistence, critical thinking and real-world application of classroom knowledge (see photos Aryantrack, hard at work, Proud Anja, Proud Logan).

Ewan Mackie-Grant and Anukar Kumar
Teachers of Science



Before 12 Bio



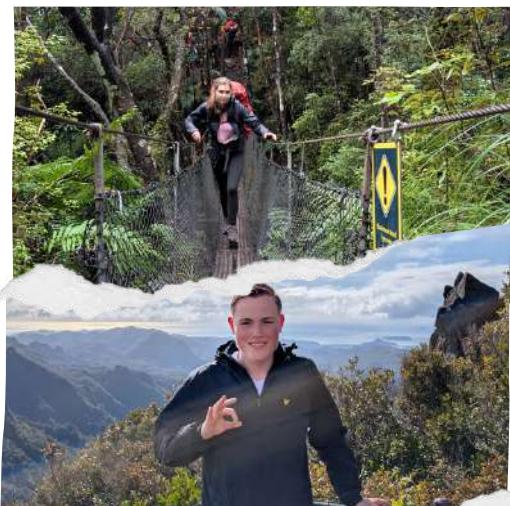
OUTDOOR EDUCATION: MOUNTAIN BIKING IN ROTORUA

Page 2

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Mountain Biking: Rotorua

On Monday 28 July this group of adventurous students travelled to Whakarewarewa Mountain Bike Park in Rotorua as part of our Outdoor Education Program. Each student had to demonstrate they could confidently and safely ride a Grade 3 mountain bike trail—and they rose to the challenge!



Adventure at The Pinnacles!

Our international students recently joined their Outdoor Education class for an overnight tramp to The Pinnacles in the stunning Kauaeranga Valley.

The hike wasn't just about the incredible views and the experience of staying at New Zealand's largest DOC hut — it was also a chance for students to analyse issues in safety management for outdoor activities and work together to devise effective safety management strategies.

From navigating river crossings and steep tracks to preparing for changing weather conditions, students put their learning into practice while building teamwork, resilience, and confidence in the outdoors.

What an amazing way to combine learning with adventure in one of the Coromandel's most iconic locations!

Page 2

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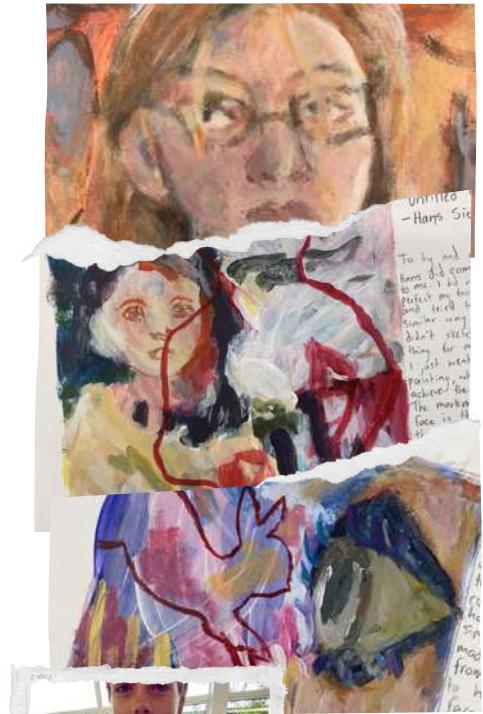
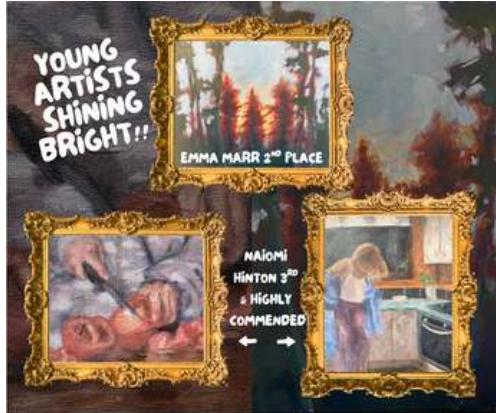


Students Win in Art Competition

In July, two of our talented students took part in a local competition and expo run by the Whitianga Lions Club. The event featured separate sections for photography and visual art, with no set theme—allowing students the freedom to create whatever inspired them.

Naiomi Hinton (Year 13) entered two incredible paintings, earning third place for one and receiving a highly commended for the other. **Emma Marr (Year 13)** also wowed the judges with her artwork, taking home second place!

Ka pai, Emma and Naiomi



The new Year 9 class are creating paintings based on the pros and cons of social media something they are very knowledgable about! . The technique we've been using is 'Dry Brush' (basically painting without loading the brush with water - something they are very prone to do !)



Here is the latest roundup of art from the senior school art students



Here is some work from Ms. Ferguson's Year 10 Art class which is to good not to share.



Mike Edwards Inspires at Careers Week

As part of Careers Week, Thames High School had the privilege of hosting renowned New Zealand actor and theatre-maker Mike Edwards.

Familiar to many through his screen roles in *Shortland Street*, *Spartacus*, and *The Brokenwood Mysteries*, Mike is also the co-founder of the acclaimed circus-theatre company *The Dust Palace*.

In a powerful session with our Drama students, Mike shared not only his career journey but also lessons for life. He spoke about the real meaning of success, the importance of perseverance, and the value of backing yourself, taking opportunities, and trusting your own creativity and talent.

Students described the experience as inspiring and uplifting, leaving them motivated and encouraged by the words of someone who has carved out a bold and creative path in the performing arts.



Lights, Camera, Action w 48 hour Film Comp

Thames High School was buzzing with creativity this past weekend as a group of students took on the Vista Foundation 48 Hours Furious Filming competition. Calling themselves Golden Ratio, the team transformed the school into a mini Hollywood set, writing, filming, and editing a short film in just two days.

This isn't the first time Thames High has stepped into the world of film—two years ago another student team entered the same competition. Inspired by that experience, Golden Ratio jumped at the chance to represent Thames once again in the school productions category. Their team name reflects both our town's gold-mining history and the timeless mathematical proportion known for its beauty in art and nature.

A School wide Effort

Although Thames High doesn't currently offer a Media Studies class, the project became a true showcase of school spirit and collaboration. Different departments pitched in: the photography team supplied gear, the music department opened its studio, drama shared costumes and props, Food Tech students kept the team fuelled, and Kapa Haka offered hospitality and support. The library became a late-night brainstorming hub, and the tech lab provided the tools needed to bring it all together in the final edit.

Community Support

The wider community also played a huge part in making the project possible. Parents provided meals and transport, teachers supervised, and local businesses stepped in with generous support. COROMIND magazine

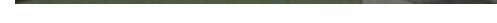
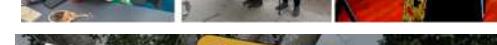


covered the team's entry fee and meals, while Burton Catering supplied sweet and savoury treats to keep the crew energised.

More Than Just a Film

Beyond the competition, the experience was a powerful learning opportunity. Students practised problem-solving under pressure, taught one another new skills, and explored all aspects of filmmaking—from directing and writing to editing and sound design. Most importantly, they built strong connections, learning to respect each other's ideas and talents while working towards a shared goal. The Golden Ratio team's entry not only highlights the creativity of Thames High students but also showcases our community spirit and culture on a national stage. Congratulations to everyone involved—you've made our school proud!

—Carla Grosman, Practising Teacher and Team Leader



Neave Merret Year 9

LOCAL BOY BECOMES HERO

Small town boy saves drowning pair after Mondays surge of natural disasters.

Earlier this week the small town of Tolaga Bay faced waves of natural disasters including a massive storm, an earthquake and a tsunami. Many roads were blocked making it difficult to get local authorities to any accidents caused by the disasters. Many people suffered injuries and weren't able to get proper care due to the damage.

The Tangaroa family were especially targeted by the disasters with irreversible damage to their family-run farm and three family members injured. After the disasters the Tangaroa brothers Charlie and Robbie went to the beach for a swim with their close friend Jenny. The sea was rough from the previous days and unfortunately Jenny and Robbie both couldn't withstand the waves, Charlie sprung into action and saved the two swimming them up-to shore

Back on shore Charlie and Jenny (who hadn't sustained any major injuries) preformed CPR on Robbie, reviving him and ultimately saving his life. Charlie has been labelled a hero for his bravery and resilience. All three kids are safe now though the farm and other family members were still suffering.

Back at the farm Charlie and Robbie's mum (Mere) had been one of the unfortunate few in an accident without access to emergency care. A slippery road had caused her to get into a potentially fatal car crash. She fortunately got pain killers before being hospitalised.

Mere and Robbie weren't the only people in the Tangaroa family affected by the quakes, Charlie and Robbie's granddad (John) was swallowed by the earth. He got stranded on a small island of land surrounded by debris. Charlie yet again came to the rescue finding him and helping him out of the rubble. Miraculous he made it out with minor injury's.

Ollie Louden Year 9

17 MAY, 1947

OLLIE LOUDEN



The aftermath of the disasters will take time and dedication, luckily the amazing community of Tolaga Bay all contribute in their own way. The Tangaroa family's farm will slowly be repaired. Mere is currently recovering smoothly. Thanks to all locals who helped with this story

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Ollie Louden Year 9

17 MAY, 1947

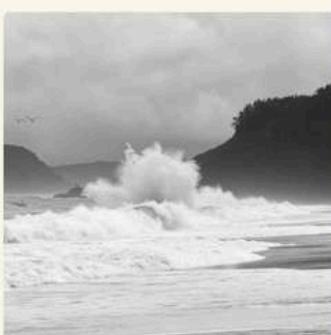
OLLIE LOUDEN

Severe Earthquake Tits Tolaga Bay

TOLAGA GETS STRUCK!!

A small town south of Tokomaru Bay, Tolaga Bay, experienced a severe earthquake of high magnitude. The quake was followed by a strong tsunami damaging buildings, people, cars, and even roads. The town and 50 km out of town, and there was no power/electricity for miles.

WIN A
FULLY
ELECTRIC
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WORTH
\$78,000



Everyone is in shock when a 6.5 magnitude earthquake strikes the bay!

After the big disaster, the government requested that everyone living near or at Tolaga Bay should move house or live somewhere away from the bay. If it had not been done within 2 YEARS, the houses in the area would be red stickered.



Tolaga Bay mayor Dave Kean was first on the scene to a resident and reported named Dave Kean about his experience on the tsunami and earthquake. In his words, "It was a shocking day after the earthquake struck, buildings collapsed. Sea creatures were stranded on the beach from the tsunami and cars got slammed against buildings and with power out for days.

Ollie Louden

Page 1

Lucie Miller Year 9

Head News

Head News

Head News

EARTHQUAKE ROCKS TOLAGA BAY

IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE AFTER 8.1

MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE DECIMATES TOLAGA BAY.

Later Monday afternoon an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.1 hit Tolaga Bay. The event destroyed the whole bay, causing dreadful damage to the whole coastline. The community was left appalled after their town was ruined. Severe natural disasters quickly approached out at sea after the event. Coast guards were advising to keep clear from the ocean, as tsunamis could be at risk. Many roads were blocked meaning no immediate medical care was available to local surrenders.

Scientists suspect that this natural disaster is regulated from increasing differences in climate change. Sea temperature started rising previous days before the earthquake, met services studied the situation and these two circumstances together caused such an irregular earthquake. Tolaga Bay hadn't claimed to have any natural disasters since 1962, when a small tsunami struck after an earthquake out at sea. The 8.1 magnitude earthquake started at 11:20 pm and went for close to 12 minutes. Aftershocks remained steady, continuing for the rest of the evening.



"I have in my thirty years here, seen Tolaga Bay in such a state!"

Tolaga Bay Mayor, Mike Meyers stated that all funding for roads, housing and slips was funded by the government. Immediate repair was granted for all road as it had blocked any access in and out of Tolaga Bay. After the earthquake struck a severe slip blocked Simpson road; located south of Tolaga Bay. Local resident 'Simone' from Simpson road claimed to feel aftershocks for the rest of the night. The next morning she was taken by surprise from this slip. "I was devastated by this mess! I have never in my thirty years here, seen Tolaga Bay in such a state!" Simone exclaimed.

The community was willing to do whatever it took to repair the town. A few days after the event, clean up took place around the town. NZEQC and NEMA were imputing stock banks out beach front to prevent flooding in case the event reoccurs. TBCC was brainstorming on safety for the town, making it more earthquake aware. Tolaga Bay will now continue to help each other and look out for the community. As hard times have hit.

Reported By Lucie Miller

Toby Dryden Year 9

QUAKES AND STORM CREATES FINANCIAL CRISIS!

Tolaga Bay businesses decimated by giant storms, business owners fearing financial crisis.

Local shop owner Mere Teariki was one of the worst affected, "This storm has absolutely devastated me, I was already in a bad position financially with the shop but now I'm going to struggle to keep it open and maybe think about selling it." Mere's store was critically damaged by the storm with damages being shattered windows, and ruined stock. The rest of the town, which was rocked by the quakes, storm, and tsunamis.

As well as the damage done to Mere's shop she was also severely injured driving up to her house (the tsunami warning meeting point) when she said that "The road just buckled under me and my car off the cliffside" She said that she was stuck in her car out cold before a van carrying campers from the campground up to the safety of her house stopped and pulled her out.



The smashed port!!!

One of the major damages for the town was the new port. The construction of the port had barely got underway before the storm hit and half destroyed what little construction had been done. Dave Keene, owner of the construction company building the port said that "We had barely been building for a week before that BLASTED tsunami ruined all of my men's hard work! We put everything into that port and this is a major setback for the construction" Dave said that him and his family had come from New York so he could oversee the construction, he also said repairs could cost up to \$7 grand. John Meyers, town publican and Civil defense co-ordinator says that the town has already got in touch with NZEQC and NEMA and restoration efforts as well as fundraising efforts already underway.

Hot Deals!! Brand New
\$300 Chevrolets for
sale!



Thames theatre tech teen triumphs

Post author: Davidda Hikatangata

Post published: June 24, 2025

The Valley Profile

If Jacob White knows one thing to be true of his Thames Music and Drama (MAD) crew it's that "we pull off some pretty cool stuff". The 16-year-old told The Profile his official role in the group was technical crew member but he could also be referred to as production technician, who worked in the areas of wardrobe, props, set design, lighting design and/or operation and sound design and/or operation.

The young tech said he often reminded his crew they pulled off excellent work considering the size of their theatre.

"We're surrounded by a great team of people at each event making sure everything is done on time. MAD is often referred to as one big family and everyone would be able to agree that everyone is always looking out for one another."

It's what makes his recent achievement so special.

The year-12 Thames High School student was nominated by a few "secret squirrels" in his crew for the Entertainment Technology New



Zealand (ETNZ) Community Technical Achievement Awards for 2025, where he snapped up the Technical Achievement Youth Award.

Former Thames MAD technical liaison Tina Haakma said society president Diane Connors and vice-president Martin Rodley approached her with the idea of putting Jacob's name forward for the award.

"We wanted to nominate Jacob because we see how he puts in effort above and beyond what is expected, and whenever there is a task that needs doing he will be on hand to help."

"Jacob's ability to plan ahead with programming and design work and work with the team for the benefit of the show/event is amazing to watch and we wanted to acknowledge that behemoth effort."

Tina said the award was an opportunity to recognise all the hard work the young technicians put into each show, and there was a massive pool of people nominated, which made it "even more special" when Jacob won.

The award-winning teen said he was quite surprised but also grateful when he heard the news.

But it was more than just a win.

Jacob was in his fifth year at Thames MAD and he said the award was an overview of his time involved there.

"It hasn't only given me a boost of encouragement but also the chance to reflect on the years that have passed and how much I've grown since I started."

One thing Jacob was currently learning was how MAD could improve in the organisation aspects of their events, he said. "This has included creating different types of documentation and learning how we can better manage our equipment."

His dream was to pursue a career within the entertainment and event production industry, and it was evident he was on the way to making it happen.

He recently signed up to do the NZ National Certificate in Entertainment & Event Operations level three course through ETNZ, which he will complete through Thames High School and different events with MAD.

"There are some pretty cool events and projects out there."

Even though he hadn't set his sights on any specific areas in the industry just yet, one thing was certain - "I'll be staying ambitious".



Thames High muso leads in the arts

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

One thing Sophia Haakma is passionate about is playing the violin.

It's a skill the 14-year-old musician has honed since she was six years old.

"I'd say my favourite aspect of it would be playing in a group, where I can provide support for others and be part of a team," she told *The Profile*.

It's something the year-9 Thames High School student has been able to pursue this year as she has donated her time to teach violin lessons once a week to fellow students.

The young muso said it was her way to contribute to her school and also a "good opportunity" to share her knowledge with other people who were keen on learning.

"These sessions have helped me to meet some of my fellow students who I may not have crossed paths with otherwise."

The best moments for Sophia was when a student first played a clean note, or put their fingers in the right places on the strings - "all the little things", she said.

Sophia's creativity was also evident in her connection to the Thames Music and Drama (MAD) community.

She performed in Thames MAD productions and shows as an actor, singer, and musician with violin parts in the orchestra, and



Thames High student Sophia Haakma, 14, teaches fellow students to play the violin. RIGHT: Sophia plays along with a fellow violinist.



Hall. Thames High music teacher Dr Nichola Voice arranged for Sophia to work with Lara to help her grow in her violin journey, Sophia said.

"I almost couldn't believe it. I still can't wait to see what valuable skills and information I will be able to get out of these sessions."

The main thing Sophia said she wanted to focus on in the lessons was to refine her overall technique to the point where "I can be more confident and comfortable" to play in front of large audiences.

One of the most important aspects of playing the violin was "always going to be technique", the musical prodigy said.

Her advice for other young violin players was to work hard on getting good structure, posture, intonation and positioning "so you don't give yourself bad habits".

But most of all: "make sure you always work hard with what you do", she said.

"Never give up, no matter how much you think you want to."

more recently as a guitarist in the *School of Rock* production.

Sophia has also recently been elected as the youth representative on the Thames MAD committee.

She said her goal in the role was to make sure the Thames MAD theatre remained a place where

people of all ages could go, and know they belong.

"Over recent years, there has been a growth in shows where kids and teens are able to take charge on stage," she said.

"I want to make sure the spotlight remains to be shared around

evenly between everybody, adults and youth alike."

A passion for the arts and the drive to grow in her violin playing was clear. That's why Sophia jumped at the opportunity to attend advanced lessons with Waikato University violin tutor Lara

Thanks to Thames Music Group: nearly \$8000

The Thames High School Music Department has received an incredible donation of nearly \$8,000 from the Thames Music Group.

As the Group transitions to operating in a different capacity and winds up its incorporated society status, the members chose to gift its remaining funds to support music education at Thames High School.

This donation will go directly towards purchasing keyboards for the Year 9 students entering the Music Department in 2026, helping launch an exciting new curriculum where all students will have the chance to learn and create on an instrument.

We are deeply grateful to the Thames Music Club for their generosity and their long-standing commitment to music in our community.

KO TE HAPORI, KO MĀTAU / OUR COMMUNITY, OUR STRENGTH!



Anonymous Donation

We're thrilled to share that the Thames High Music Department has received a generous anonymous donation of \$2,500 to help kickstart a new violin programme!

Thanks to this incredible support, lessons are already underway—led by our talented Year 9 student Sophia Haakma. As part of our new connection with Waikato University, Sophia has also been invited to take lessons with renowned violin tutor Lara Hall, and we're excited to welcome senior university students to Thames High each term to run masterclasses. These will be open to both students and the wider community for a koha.

St. George's Concert

On Friday 22 August, our Thames High School Music Department joined forces with the Thames Music Group for a special showcase at St George's Church.

The morning was filled with incredible performances — from beginners through to intermediate musicians — covering everything from classical and jazz, to rock bands, singing ensembles, heavy metal, and even the harpsichord!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support. It was especially heartwarming to see students, some performing for the very first time, step up with such courage. We are so proud of each and every one of them!





Rotorua Trip – A Day of Learning and Adventure

On Tuesday 26 August, the group set off to Rotorua, visiting Te Puia and the Rotorua Museum.

At Te Puia, our guide Paul—who we are fortunate to see each year—shared the rich history of the area. Students also discovered how traditional carving and weaving are being preserved and celebrated through Te Puia's renowned Arts School.

The visit to the Rotorua Museum was another highlight, with an interactive presentation exploring how the city has changed over time. Students had the chance to put their new knowledge into action through activities run by the museum staff.

The day ended on a high with a breathtaking walk through the treetops of the Redwoods, a memorable way to finish a day full of learning and adventure.

– Ms Fletcher

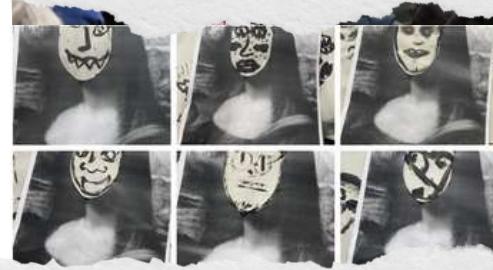
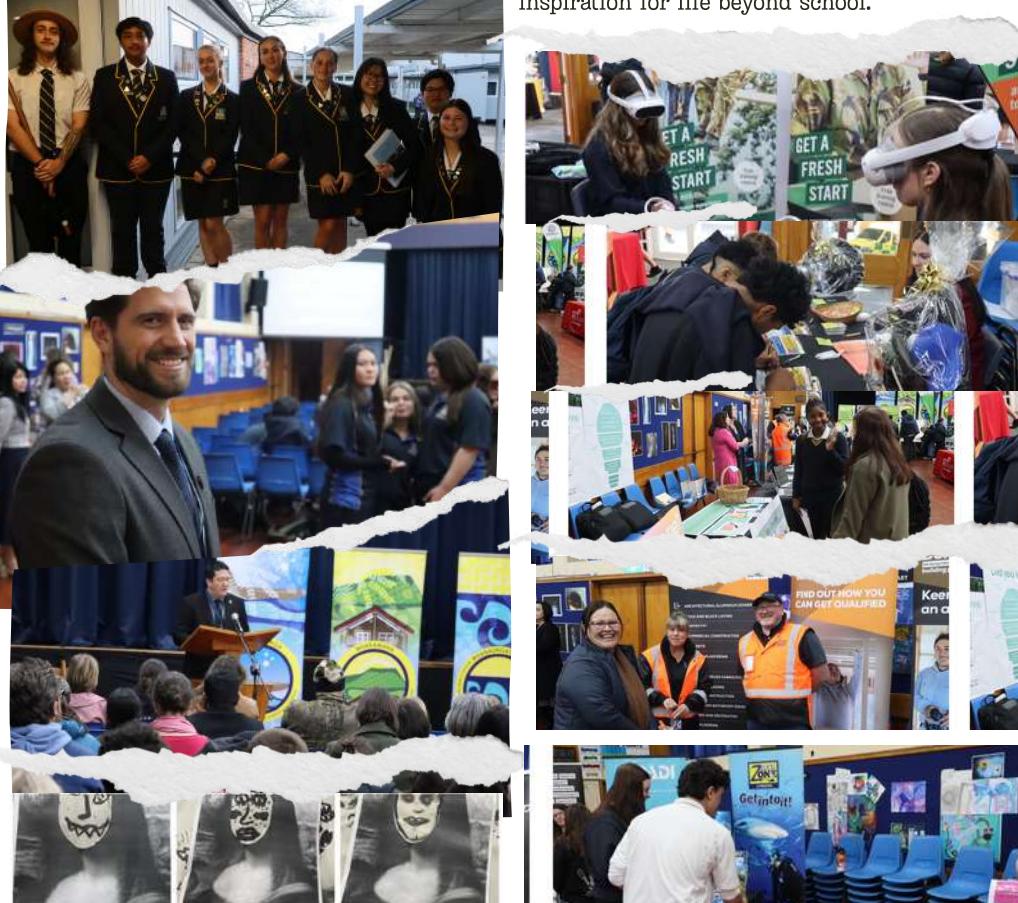


Open Evening 2026 was a fantastic success!

It was wonderful to welcome our community into the classrooms and connect with our chance to explore future pathways and future students and their whānau. While we opportunities. Universities, polytechnics, didn't take photos of our guests, we did trades, and local businesses set up interactive capture some of the fun in the Art Department displays, providing valuable information and —where the Mona Lisa got a whole new look!

Careers Expo

This year Thames High School hosted its annual Careers Expo, giving students the chance to explore future pathways and advice. It was a great opportunity for students to ask questions, make connections, and gain inspiration for life beyond school.



Farewell to Mr Prasad. His time here was short but we wished him well on his new journey in Wellington where he joined his wife.



Thank you to New Zealand author **Stacy Gregg** for visiting kura!

As part of the Writers in Schools programme, we were delighted to host author Stacy Gregg. She presented to all Year 9 students, sharing insights into her work and writing journey. Following this, Mrs Emery's English class had the special opportunity to take part in a poetry writing workshop with Stacy, having recently studied her novel Nine Girls.



A Season to Remember

By Tess Watts, Sports Coordinator

It's been an action-packed Term 3 for sport at Thames High School — full of incredible achievements, dedicated teams, and community spirit. As winter sport draws to a close, we celebrate the effort and energy shown by every athlete, coach, and supporter who helped make the season a success.

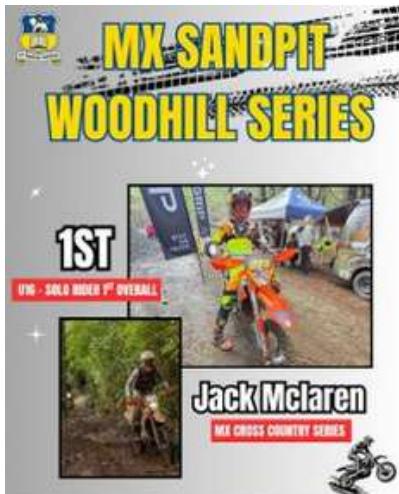
A special highlight is our Senior Mixed Touch Team, who have been training all year for their International Tournament on the Gold Coast this October. Competing against teams from Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, the tour will prepare them for Nationals in December. Massive thanks go to our sponsors, families, and community for helping raise over \$35,000 to make this dream a reality.



Thames High School students have been making waves across a wide range of sporting codes this term, achieving success both locally and at regional competitions.

McLaren Motors to Victory in Cross-Country MX

Thames High School's **Jack McLaren (Year 11)** roared to success in the Sandpit Wood Hill MX cross-country series over the school holidays. Competing in the gruelling two-hour solo rider event, McLaren claimed first place overall, cementing his reputation as one of the region's rising motocross stars.



Thames Valley U14 Rugby Boys Impress at Tournament

Three Thames High students pulled on the gold jersey for the Thames Valley U14 rugby team at the Heartlands Tournament. **Sirius Wilcox (Year 9)**, **Archie Stove (Year 10)** and **Toby Dryden (Year 9)** all played key roles as the side secured three victories from four matches. Stove was also named captain of the team, an impressive honour for the Year 10 player.



U16 & U18s:

Congratulations to **Walter Wiki** and **Archie Stove (U16)**, and **Caileigh Poipoi, Taylor Menzies, Laura Donald, and Takaimo Waite (U18 Girls)**.

Walter and Archie went on to claim back-to-back wins at the Heartland U16 Carnival Competition in Taupō — four wins from four games!



Badminton Brilliance

The Thames High School Badminton Champs were held over the first two weeks of Term 3, with plenty of students taking part. It was fantastic to see such strong competition and enthusiasm on the courts. Well done to all who entered!

THS Badminton Champs Junior Doubles:



Gwen Kingi
Eva Ellis



Jack Smith
Fynn Tyson

THS Badminton Champs Senior Doubles:



Austin Court
Matthew Wilson



Ellie Johnston
Romie Dargaville

THS Badminton Senior Doubles Runner Up:



Austin Court
Matthew Wilson



Chevy Wilcox
Raelin Alvi

Thames Valley Badminton Champs

Thames High School hosted the Thames Valley Badminton Championships for Senior and Junior players. Held over two days, eleven schools participated. 199 games played for SNR players.

Congratulations to Dimple Martin (Year 11), who was runner-up overall in the Senior Girls Singles for Thames Valley. Special thanks to Thames Valley Badminton - Jeremy Rout for helping run such a successful event. Congratulations to our students who placed Runners-up overall in their division.



Hockey Heroes

Student leaders **Annie Perrett**, **Ellie Johnston**, and Sports Coordinator Assistant **Alicia Costello** played in the Thames Valley Women's Final, finishing in a 1-1 draw with Waitakaruru to share the 2025 Women's Trophy. A fantastic result showcasing teamwork and skill at the highest level.



Netballers Shine Across Grades

It's been a stellar season for Thames High School netball. The Open A and 9A teams were both crowned winners of their grades in the Thames Valley Secondary Schools League, while the Open B team finished runners-up.

The 9A side also travelled north for Auckland's End of Season Tournament, gaining valuable experience against new opponents, while the Open A team fought through tough competition at UNISS, successfully finishing in the top 16 of their grade.



It was a 6am start on Sunday 17 August, for the 9A Netball girls as we headed to the Auckland Netball Centre End of Season Tournament. We played 4 games against teams from Auckland to Whangarei.

It was a great experience for the team to be pushed out of their comfort zone, attend a centre with 20-plus netball courts and play new teams/new faces after our season.

It was an awesome day together, bonding and just having fun, we also won a signed ANZ Stars netball



Special thanks to our amazing coach **Teresa Tauroa**, and assistant coach, **Kelly Taurua**, for helping make this week happen for our team. Our team played two games a day and had two amazing wins. The main aim was to stay in the top 16 for our grade, which we achieved that result.

All players had an amazing week, lots of learning and some great team building.

Our team consisted of the following students:

Caileigh Poipoi (Captain)

Chloe Paynter

Ora wiki

Abbey Mobberley

Storm Ratima

Holly Bradley

Gwen Kingi

Takaimo Waite

Lawron Waite

Lily McCarthy (Amber Rayment - didn't attend this year's tournament but is part of our Open A.)

Congratulations also to our Open A who were winners of the Waihi Netball Competition for 2025 in their grade.



Gold for Wilson in Ju-Jitsu

Year 13 student **Matthew Wilson** showcased his skill on the mats, winning gold in the adult 70kg division at the North Island Brazilian Ju-Jitsu Championships. His victory against seasoned adult competitors marks a major milestone in his martial arts career.



Junior Football Team

Congratulations to our Junior Boys Football Team who were winners of their division in the Waikato Secondary Schools Football for 2025.

Coached by Shannon Paki and managed by Michael Dobie.

Well done to all players and coaching staff for an amazing season!



Rippa Rugby

Our Year 9 boys and girls teams had a fantastic day at the Thames Valley Rippa Tournament held in Whitianga recently.

Lots of learning and gaining new skills in the rugby area.

Special mention to **Fynn Paki, Declan Fenton** and **Jake Sara** for being referees for the girls games during the day. Lots of fun was had by all.

**Volleyball- Senior Girls**

Our Senior Girls Volleyball Team had a great day at the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Senior Volleyball Tournament held in Katikati this week. Our girls have been training hard twice a week and are playing some awesome volleyball.

The team played three games, having a good win during one of their games.

Special thanks to **AJ** and **Alicia Costello**, who have been coaching our girls since the beginning of the year. Keep up the good work girls.

**Junior Basketball - Overall Winners**

Congratulations to our Junior Girls and Junior Boys Gold Team coached by **Phil Taylor** and managed by **Kelly Carter**.

Both teams were overall winners for 2025 season in the Thames Valley Secondary School Basketball Competition. Both teams had thrilling finals against Paeroa College in front of a packed crowd.

Well done to all players and congratulations.



Active As Update

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Kia kötahi ai te pikī ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata

Thames High School
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

UT PROSIM PATRIAE

ACTIVE AS
TERM 3 PHYSICAL

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Kia kötahi ai te pikī ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata

Thames High School
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

UT PROSIM PATRIAE

ACTIVE AS
TERM 3 ENVIRONMENT

Te Aroha College vs Thames High

This year, we hosted Te Aroha College for our Sports Exchange.

This was a very successful event, seeing wins for both Senior Girls and Boys rugby 7s, Senior Boys Doubles in Badminton, Senior Girls Football in a draw, and Senior Boys Football.

Congratulations to all the teams that competed in the 2025 Sports Exchange.

Congratulations to the following students:

Football Senior Boys MVP **Jake Hudson**

Football Senior Girls MVP **Gracie Miller**

Volleyball Senior Girls MVP **Kim Ju**

OpenA Girls Netball MVP **Lawron Waite**

Senior Boys Basketball MVP **Obie Fraser**

Senior Girls Basketball MVP **Simrat Kaur**

Senior Girls Rugby Sevens MVP **Taylor Menzies**

Senior Boys Rugby Sevens MVP **Finn Owen**

Badminton Senior Doubles **Austin Court**.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the coaches, managers, umpires, staff who have been here to support us to make this a successful day.



International Food Festival 2025

We all enjoyed some really delicious food from around the world at the food festival.

It was really great to see these students get stuck in, work as a team and take pride in sharing food from different cultures!

Thanks to Arts & Culture Student Leaders Eylul and Neka for organising this with the help of International Programme Manager, Pauline.



Kapa haka at Ngā Putake o Toi ki Hauraki



Here are some photos from the performance at Goldfields Mall as part of the Ngā Putake o Toi ki Hauraki on the last day of Term 3!

Wero Trip

Recently, Mr Ashforth and Mr Kim took 20 Junior School students to Wero Climb to celebrate their outstanding attendance and achievement. The trip, organised by Mr Kim and Mrs Caigoy, offered students an incredible opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally in a supportive, culturally rich environment.

Standing 16 metres tall and designed in Germany by Kristallturm, Wero Climb features 78 unique climbing elements — from the daring trust jump to the “walk the plank.” What makes this experience truly special is its strong cultural foundation, created in partnership with local Tainui iwi, weaving Māori mythological stories into every step of the climb to highlight values of strength, resilience, and identity.

We are very thankful to Waka Pacific Trust, who generously funded this experience as part of their community initiative supporting the first 15,000 tamariki between July 21, 2025, and March 30, 2026. The Trust — which operates Due Drop Events Centre, Wero Whitewater Park, Momentum Hub, and Wero Climb — provides opportunities that enrich lives through learning, connection, and wellbeing.

Congratulations to our students who represented Thames High School: Chloe Bergersen, Chloe Booth, Eva Ellis, Gwen Kingi, Olivia Lamont, Kiera Nunn, Maia Whitney, Luca Yamamoto, Oscar Zhang, Cameron Duthie, Olivia Baines, Esther Bullock, Luke De La Rive Box-Harison, Sophia Haakma, Katelyn Jiang, Ava McQuarters, Caspian Milner, David Charles, Daniel Restauro, and Roy Rettymon.

For these students, Wero Climb was more than an adventure — it was a celebration of effort, culture, and courage, reminding us that when we challenge ourselves, we grow together to achieve our true potential.



Seagull Centre Grant

We're thrilled to announce that Thames High School has been successful in our Seagull Centre Community Grant application!

This funding will go directly toward supporting our waste management and sustainability goals, a project led by our passionate Enviroschools team. Thanks to this grant, we'll be able to purchase new, purpose-designed waste bins that will help us reduce litter and improve recycling across our kura. The project isn't just about new bins — it's about empowering students to take ownership of environmental action. Through education, awareness, and reward-based initiatives, our students will continue to lead the way in creating a cleaner, more sustainable school environment.

We're incredibly grateful to the Seagull Centre for their support and partnership in helping us achieve this vision. Their contribution complements other funding we've already received, meaning we can now roll out improved waste systems across key areas of the school.

This is another step toward our shared goal: “Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata — We grow together to achieve one's true potential.”

Together, we're growing a greener future for Thames High School!

Creative Writing

Sun stretches over the trees, lighting the cul-de-sac in a pale yellow light. Concrete blackens with my shadow as it dances around my younger brothers. Tree's smile as air brushes them, three bedroom family houses magnetic to the leaves. Our neighbourhood echoes with tennis banter. Back and forth, back and forth, the ball goes. A hyperactive canine between our rusted tennis rackets. Blue sky sits with us as my brother tries again taunting me. Little brothers are silly. Egoistically he says, “I'm better than you.” My tennis racket swings. “What was that?” He laughs. Innocently, the ball floats in the puddles of water that litter across the drain. Seven year old Zac sighs, not in frustration but in a slightly mean happiness that he is better than me. He takes it from the drain, smirking, and swings. It flies. Up and up like god gave it wings and this is its only chance at happiness. My brother's face drains with colour at the idea of neighbourly interaction as the green orb plummets rapidly downwards. I guess those wings weren't meant for flying after all. “Dibs not!” Eyes pin his brunet head, “I'll get it next time if you go now?” Pinching the bridge of my nose, I exhale. He takes this as agreement and smiles subtly. “Hurry up then!” Appearance glimpsing with challenge. Funny how his nerves are forgotten now that I have to face her.

She reminds me of an owl. Which is ironic since her name is Robin. Blond bleached feathers fading an exhausted grey. I see her. Through the glass. A blurry figure coming forwards. I want to run, to hide, to leave with all my organs intact. Ding Dong! Robin materialises, her gaze scans her surroundings, landing on the intruder in front of her nest. She seems to be always aware. Always watching. Always knowing. Always in constant guard of her nest. It must be tiring. The owl holds something in her large watchful eyes. Owls are a symbol of Athena, of wisdom. I'm not sure if wisdom is what her gaze holds, but they always seem to be possessing a certain something. Her irises are a light brown somewhere between chocolate and a broken silver hue. Her eyes were always gleaming, flickering like light behind mist tunnelling through some forgotten forest. Sewn on at birth, she has patches circling her face and dying with age to a dark shade. A colour that resembles if rust and the end of autumn, when all the bright hues have rotted, decided to conceive some kind of mutation of the both. The patchwork on her face leads into a soft fractured texture of feathers then on to a stocky frame. In the past I noticed she always flew silently yet her wings always seemed overcome with an agony as if they were on the verge of shattering. Like fractured glass just needing a slight nudge. Stretching her wings, she stares at me now, beak clapping as if I am a predator instead of a scared twelve year old prey. The odour of decaying meat encompasses her. “I.. the ball went over into your nest, can I.. get it?” I stutter, intimidation is a worthy tactic for owls ‘defending’ their nests. Hands are painted with sweat in an instant in her presence. Danger lurks around every corner for her I think, from the way she analyses me. After a moment's silence, she hoots grumpily. “Fine...”

Appearing innocent, as I trudge through her nest, although I believe there is some sort of animalistic brutality enclosed behind her facade. For improved vision, she tilts her skull. Puncturing her stare into my scared figure. Her standoff nature must manufacture a lonesome life. Hardly even moving until night holds her hand. Sometimes, she has visitors. Grass, green. Where's the ball? I know this because I see them. Another tree, palm tree? Two owls sharing food, head bobbing and chirping together. More dirt. Sticks. Talons sharpen in my peripheral vision. Grass. Dirt. Where's it? Green. Neon. There! The ball hides from my claws as I snatch it hurriedly, rushing past the old owl. “Thanks..” I mumble over my shoulder. Talons. Sharp talons rest on her table. Charcoal gate closing with a bang. Dry grass falling into a soft green. Knees wallowing on the naked earth by the footpath. It's over. It's over.

Sophie Whyte Year 11

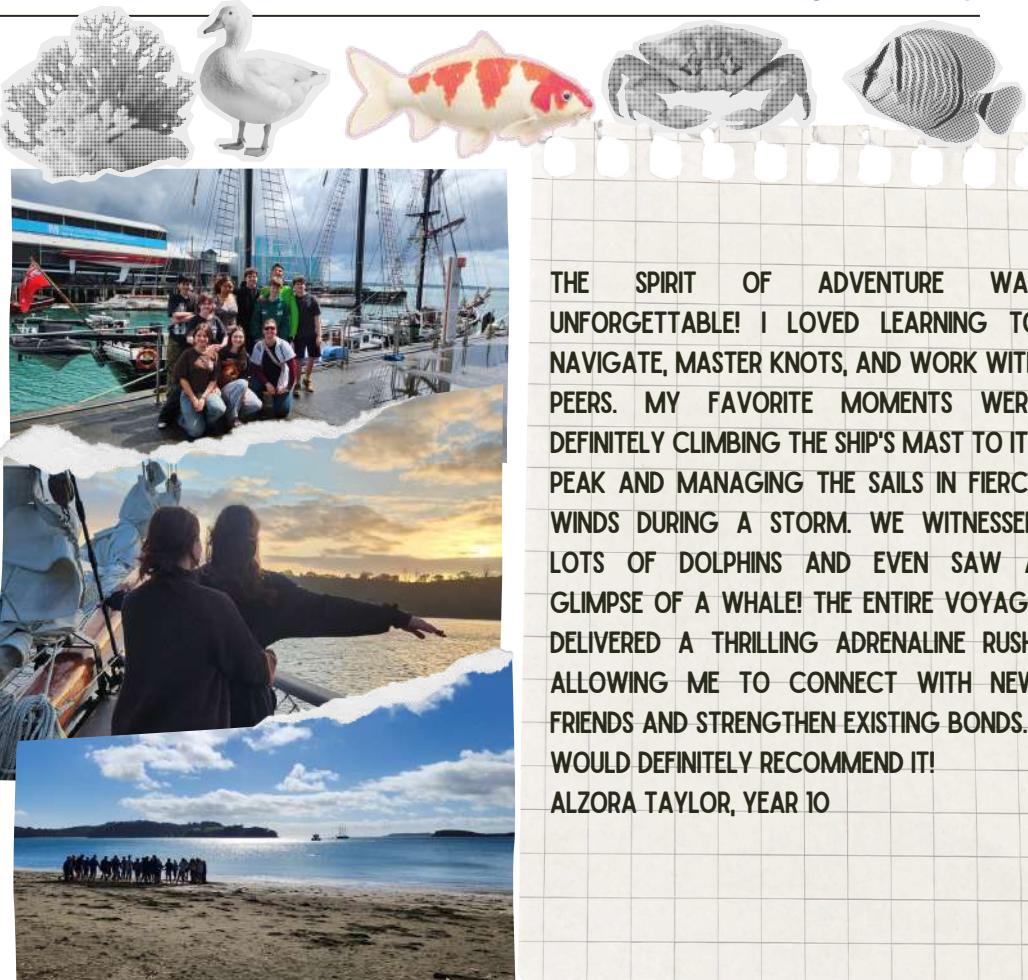


Spirit of Adventure

The Spirit of Adventure is a New Zealand youth development programme — most famously known for its Spirit of New Zealand ship — that helps young people build confidence, teamwork, and leadership through life at sea.

The programme takes young people (usually aged 16–18) out of their comfort zones by having them live and work aboard a tall sailing ship for several days. The experience focuses on personal growth through challenge, teamwork, and adventure — no sailing experience is needed.

Unfortunately, this year's trip was cut short due to sickness on the ship, but our students luckily kept well and only had amazing things to say about their two days on the ship:



Debate Day Adventures



On Saturday 11 October, Ms Emery travelled with our Thames High School Debating Team to Papamoa College to compete in the Bay of Plenty British Parliamentary Debating Tournament. She shared how proud she was of the team, saying they represented our kura with excellence and spirit.

Year 9 student Alex Atrill wrote about his experience:

UP EARLY ON A SATURDAY MORNING, WE GOT INTO THE VAN, AND AFTER SOME TROUBLE WITH THE KEYS AND THE VAN BEING FULLY UNLOCKED, WE WERE ON THE ROAD. ONE QUICK HOUR-AND-A-HALF DRIVE LATER, WE WERE THERE! ALBEIT ABOUT 15 MINUTES LATE, BUT WE WERE THE FURTHEST AWAY OUT OF ALL THE SCHOOLS. AFTER BEING SORTED INTO OUR TEAMS, FELIX AND I WERE MOSTLY READY — I SAY MOSTLY, AS THE MOOT WE WERE GIVEN WAS A BIT HARD TO READ INTO: "THIS HOUSE REGRETS THE NARRATIVE THAT UNIVERSITY IS THE PRIMARY PATH TO SUCCESS."

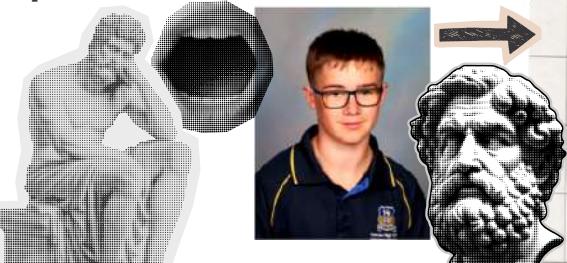
SO, UNDERSTANDABLY, IT TOOK US ABOUT 10 OF OUR 15 MINUTES OF PLANNING TO EVEN COMPREHEND WHAT TO WRITE BUT WE DID HAVE SOME GOOD ARGUMENTS AND GOOD COUNTERPOINTS, CAUSING MY TEAM TO GET FIRST IN THE DEBATE.

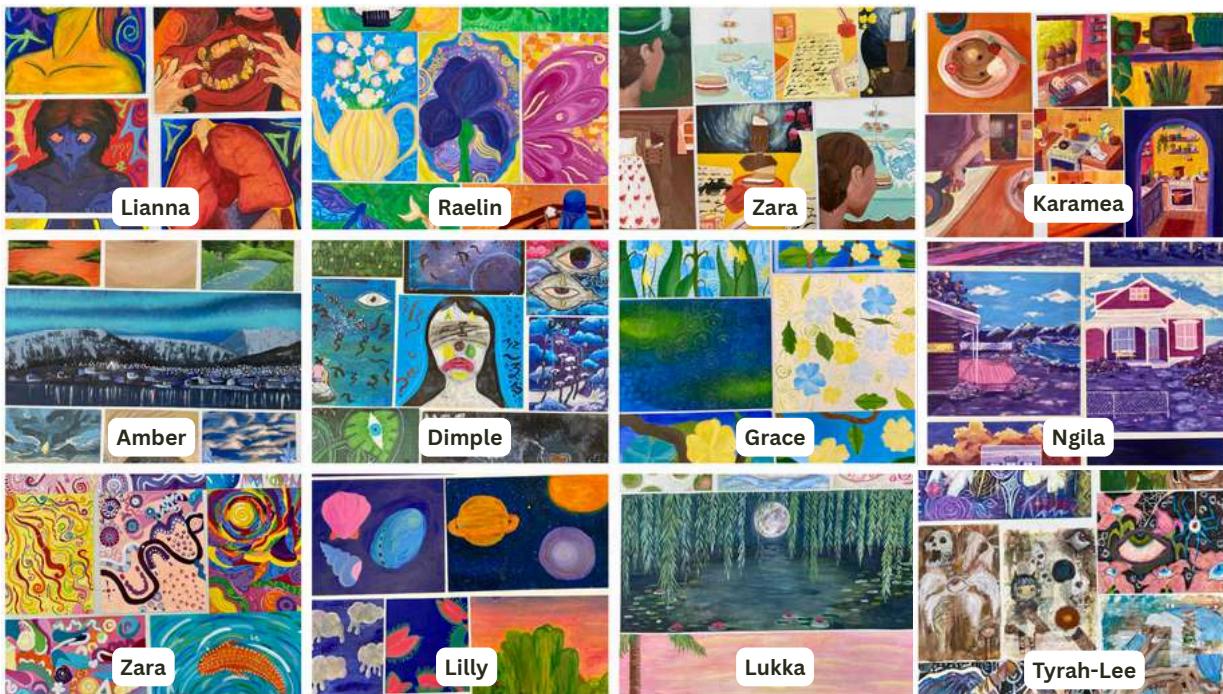
THE SECOND OF THE THREE WAS ON A.I. (WHICH CONVENIENTLY CAME UP DURING OUR FIRST DEBATE AS WELL!). THE MOOT WAS ABOUT THE USAGE OF A.I. FOR THERAPEUTIC AND COMPANIONSHIP REASONS. THIS ONE WAS MUCH HARDER TO FIGHT FOR, AS MANY ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF A.I. AND THE HIGH STANDARDS NEEDED TO BECOME A LICENSED THERAPIST CAME UP THAT WE SIMPLY COULDN'T FIGHT AGAINST. WE ENDED UP GETTING THIRD IN THE DEBATE BUT HAD HIGH HOPES FOR OUR FINAL ONE, AS WE WERE STILL IN THE TOP FEW.

UNTIL THE MOOT WAS REVEALED TO BE ON K-POP — AND OUR HOPES DWINDLED. NEITHER OF US HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT K-POP, SO MOST OF OUR ARGUMENTS WERE FLIMSY AT BEST, AND ALTHOUGH WE DIDN'T GET OUR RESULTS FOR THE FINAL DEBATE, WE WERE PUSHED, AND OUR ARGUMENTS CRUMBLED UNDER THE RIGHT PRESSURE. WE DON'T THINK WE DID OUR BEST.

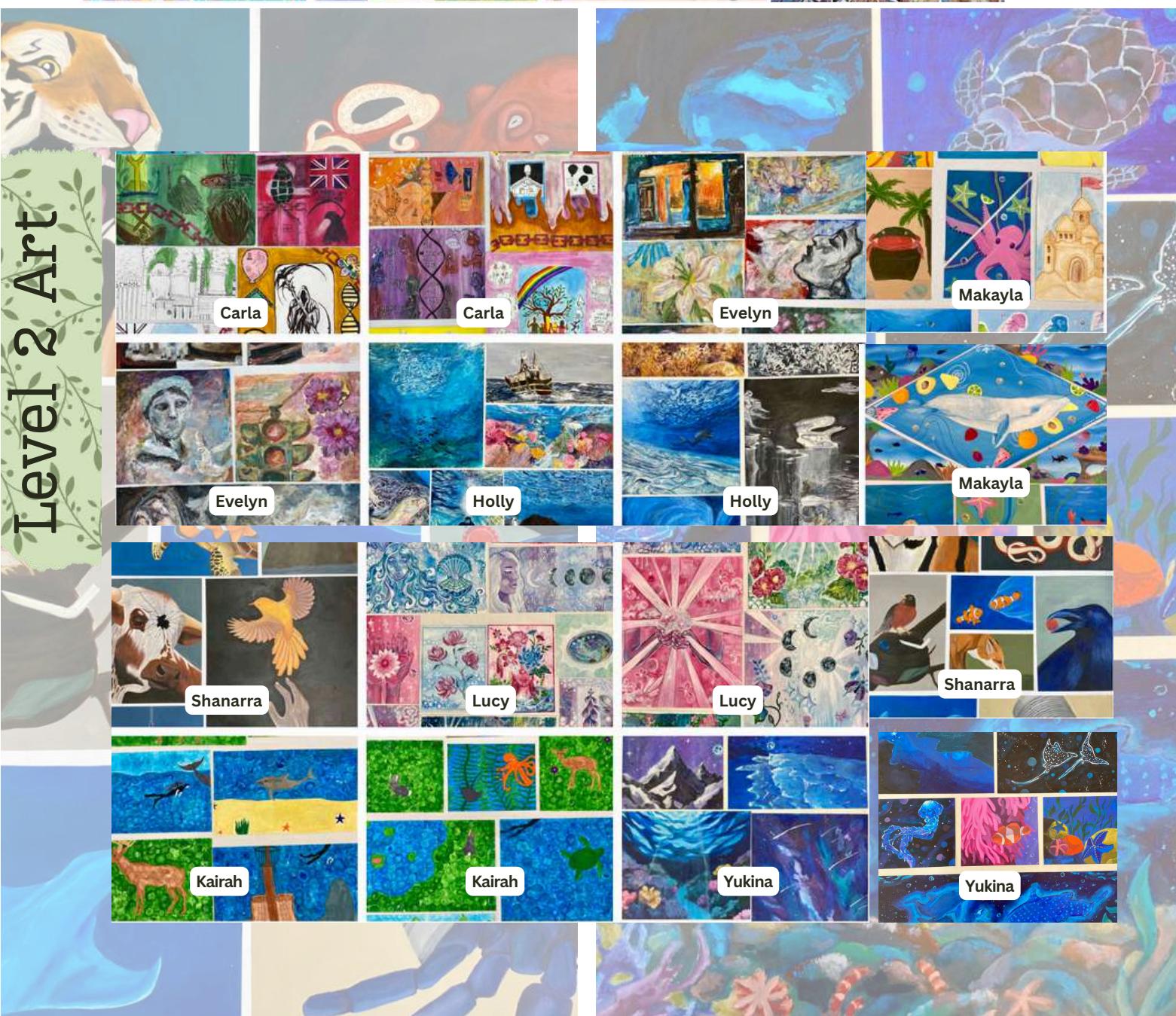
ALL IN ALL, WE HAD A BLAST DURING THE VAN RIDES AND A DIFFICULT TIME DURING THE DEBATES, AND I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND OTHERS JOIN.

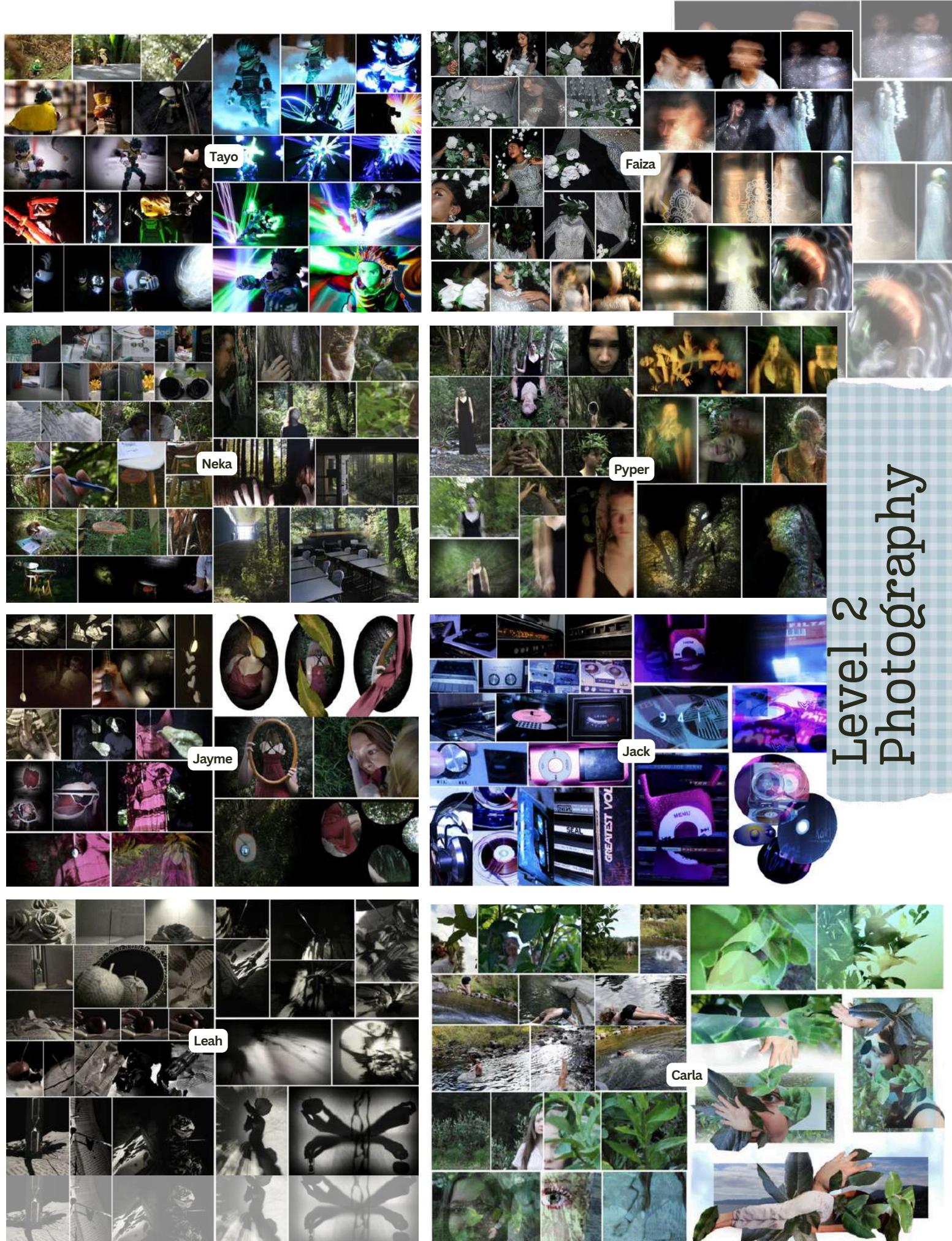
-ALEX ATRILL





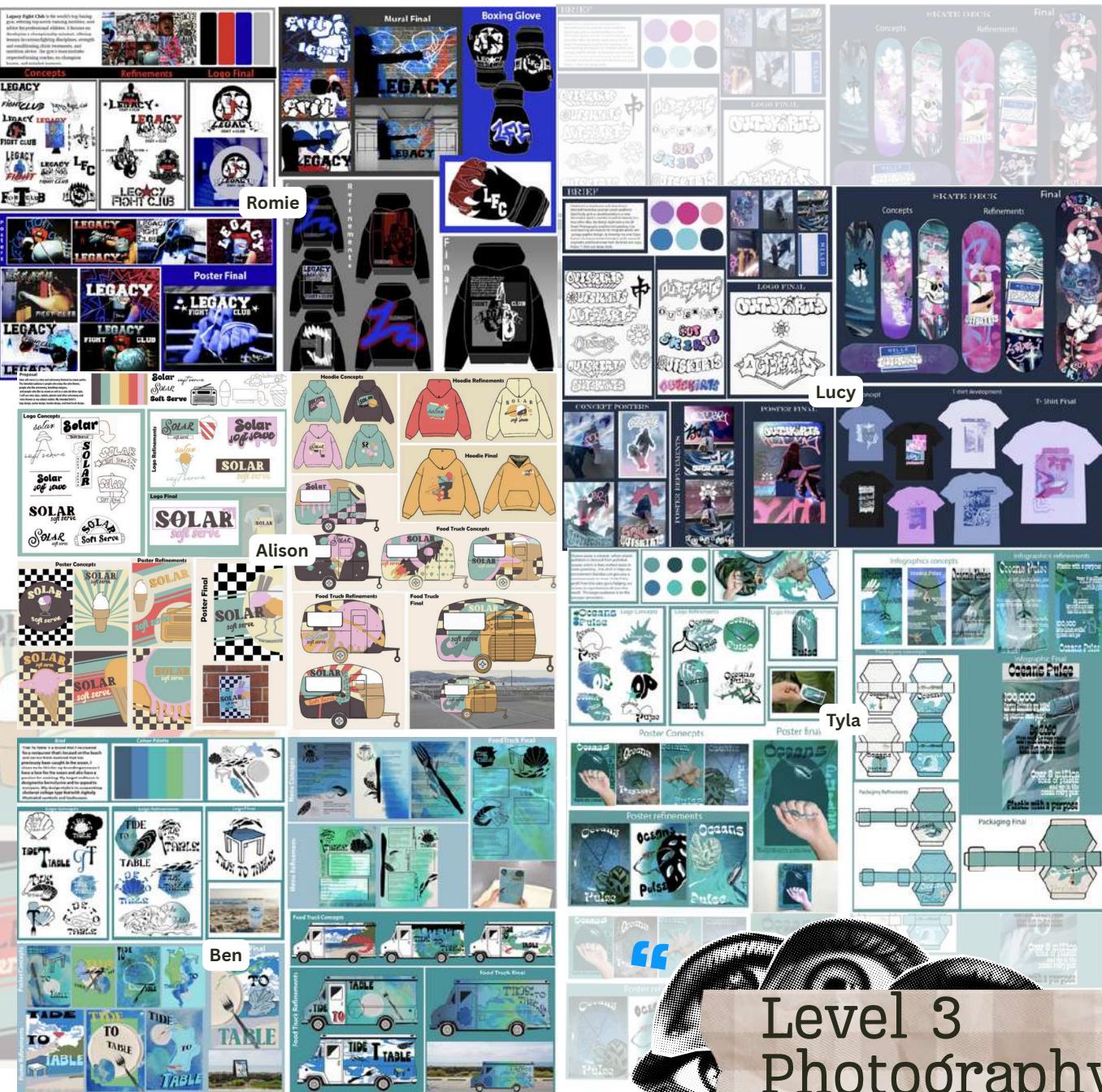
Year 11 Art



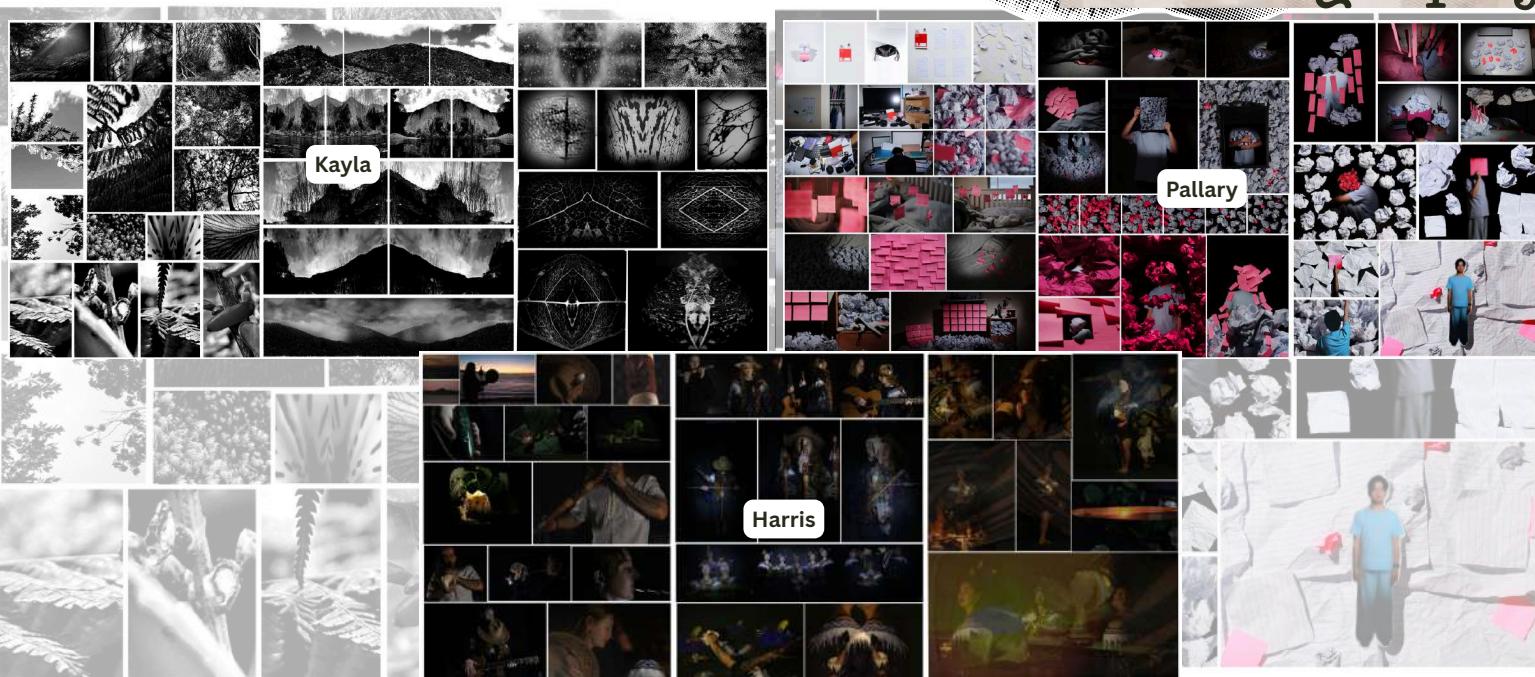


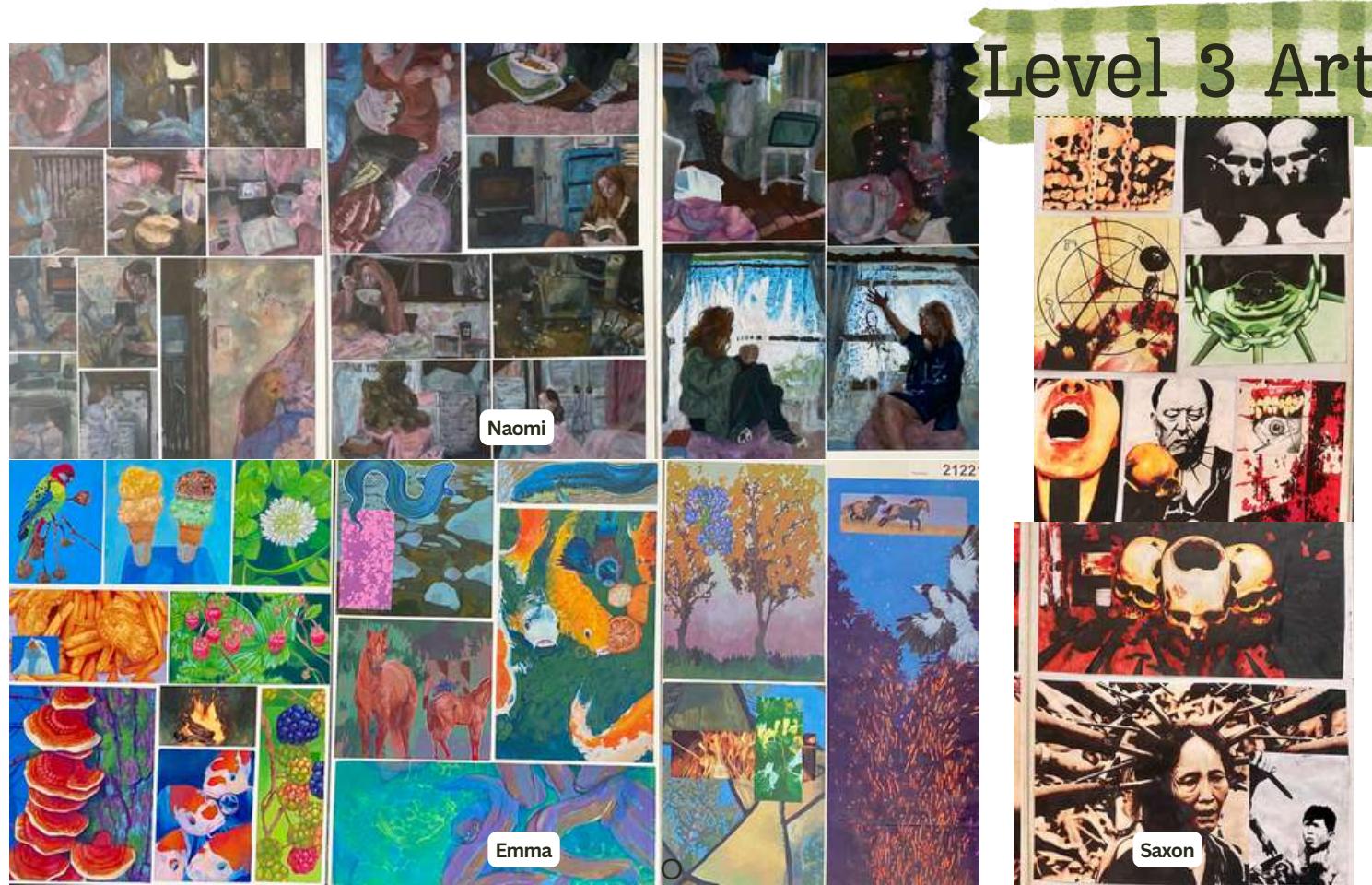
Level 2 Photography

Visual Art & Design



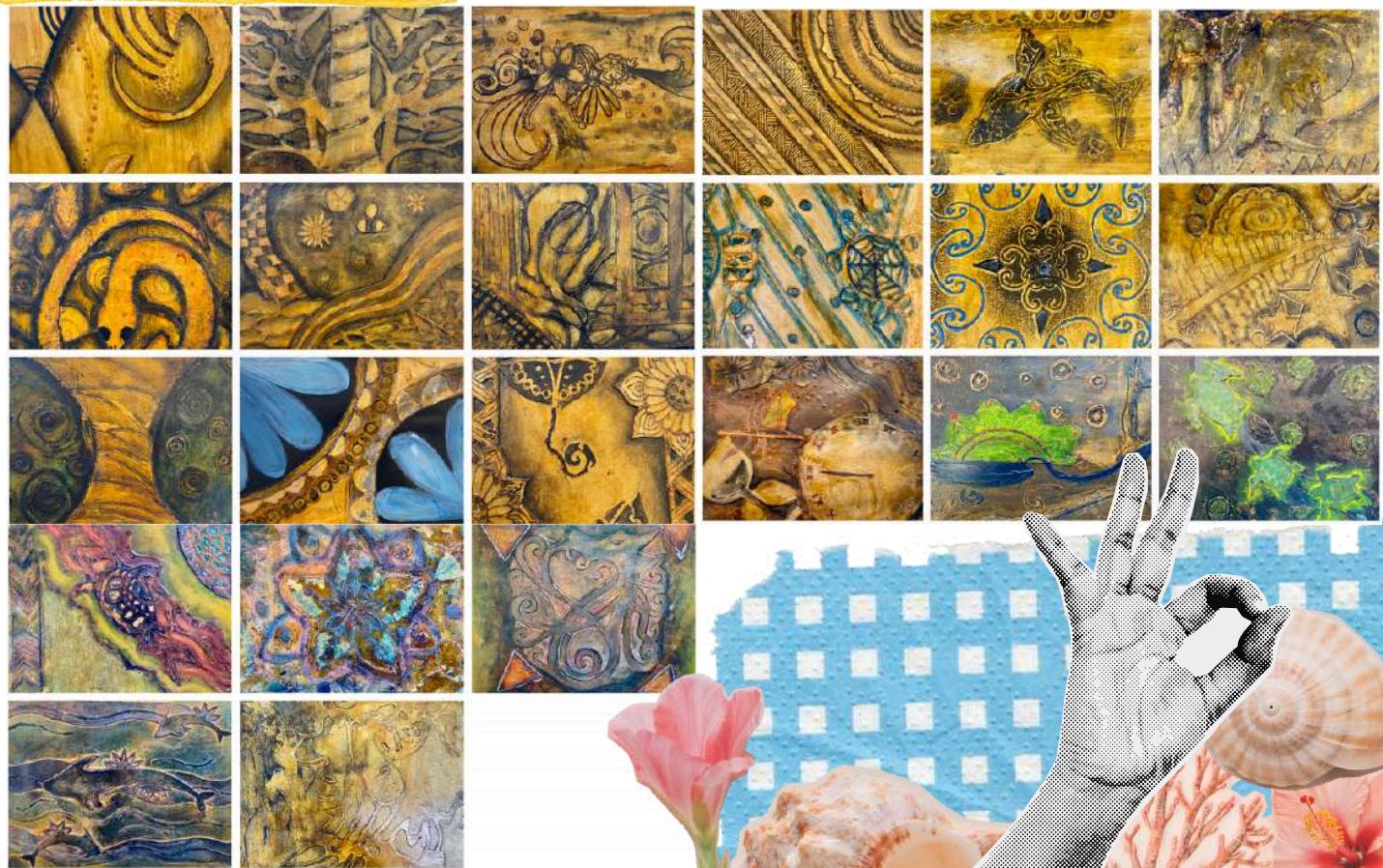
Level 3 Photography





Year 10 Art

The Year 10 Project Based Learning class have been making relief pieces based on their research on patterns found in different cultures .



Gold Coast Touch

The 2025 Gold Coast touch tour was one to remember. With students first flights, first overseas experience it was always going to be exciting. Looking back now and reflecting as a coach I couldn't have asked for more. We preformed extremely well loosing one game all tournament to Southport high who eventually were the champions and undefeated. We created some momentum and learnt a lot about our style of play and showed up to create one of the best day twos I have seen as a coach or player in 20 years of touch . Most importantly the team were a pleasure to be around. They proved to me and themselves they are warriors and have what it takes to achieve greatness. Working with Tess watts and Jen fletcher is seamless, they are amazing humans and everyday was a pleasure. 2025 Gold Coast will Be a memory forever, a success for this team and an experience of a lifetime for the ones involved. Thanks to all the sponsors, families, Thames High, the students, the teachers involved. Without you that's not possible . **Alex Morrison Coach**

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS FOR HELPING MAKE THIS TRIP POSSIBLE FOR OUR TEAM! WITH OVER \$34,000 RAISED, WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT.

Proudly Sponsored by

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PAK'nSAVE Whangarei
AJ Construction
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Macleod Family
Wayne's Automotive
Watson Engineering
Fosters Engineering
PAK'nSAVE Thames
PGG Wrightsons Livestock
Mackenzie Construction



Rugby League Star

We're thrilled to share that Ffin Owen has been accepted into the Rugby League Excellence Programme at Redcliffe State High School in Queensland, Australia, for 2026.

A fantastic opportunity to pursue his passion and talent for Rugby League through expert coaching and the school's strong links with the NRL Dolphins.

All the best, Ffin – we can't wait to see what's next! -Facebook Post



All comments ▾

Harley Baker Well deserved, congratulations Ffin. 1w Like Reply Hide 2

Juliette Fenemor Wow 1w Like Reply Hide

Terez Wiperi Karauria Heta Sheeeeet on the way bruv keep focused my mans 1w Like Reply Hide

Fiona MacLeod Webster No one has worked harder on or off the field - Well done Ffin seize the day and we are so proud of you 1w Like Reply Hide 2

Ruth Howes Wow Ffin....that's so exciting for you! Can't wait to hear and see how it all goes! 1w Like Reply Hide

Frances Donnelly McLaren Congratulations Ffin 1w Like Reply Hide

Moy Liddell Congratulations, Ffin 1w Like Reply See translation Hide

Michelle Tupper Home of the Dolphins 1w Like Reply Hide

Raewyn Grey That's great news Ffin. Congratulations 1w Like Reply See translation Hide

Jonathan Eleanor Lee Fantastic! 1w Like Reply Hide

Miffy Welsh Really awesome Ffin. Congratulations. 1w Like Reply Hide

Walter Wiki Congratulations Ffin that an awesome opportunity for you. 1w Like Reply Hide

Lili Hansom Bloody hell congrats Ffin that's so cool 1w Like Reply Hide

Steph Pyne congrats ffin! 1w Like Reply See translation Hide

Velma Kopa Awsome Ffin congratulations to you 1w Like Reply See translation Hide

Sandy Good Congratulations Ffin, so proud of you. I can't wait to see what the future holds for you. 1w Like Reply Hide

Touch Term 4

We have had an amazing response for Touch in term 4. With over 70 kids playing touch at Ngatea this year .

Our 6 teams are very lucky to have some wonderful coaches .

We are excited for what the game of touch is bringing to our Kura and look forward to further developments in the code.



Thames Valley 3x3 JNR Basketball

During week 5 our Junior Boys attend the Thames Valley 3x3 Basketball Tournament held at Te Aroha College.

Special mention and congratulations to our Thames High School Blue team (made up of Tyron Baker, Eli O'Neil, Tyler Smith and Zak McNair who finished 3rd overall

The other two teams were close to qualifying with two wins and 1 loss each in pool play.



Primary Schools Rippa Rugby World Cup - Sports Volunteers at it Again.

11 of our amazing sports volunteers recently assisted at the Thames Valley Primary Rippa Rugby World Cup . It was a great event had by all.

Thanks to Thames valley for the opportunity.



Sports volunteers are :

Pearl Newton
Archie Stove
Chris Killian
Carson Fletcher
Jake Sara
Toby Dryden

Devon Smith
Jai Bradley
Luke de la Rive Box
Jp Green
Declan Fenton

On Wednesday, 22 October, we celebrated the incredible sporting achievements of our Thames High School students at the annual Sports Prize Giving. It was a wonderful evening honouring commitment, perseverance and teamwork — values that shine both on and off the field.

Our guest speaker for the night, Michelle Hayes, began her journey right here at Thames High School. During her time as a student, she was Senior Girls Athletics Champion, Vice-Captain of the Senior A Netball Team, a key member of the Hillary Team that placed third at Nationals, and a dedicated competitor in the Thames High School Road Race Team, which also represented at national level. Michelle was — and still is — one of the most humble, hardworking, and coachable athletes to come through our kura.

After leaving Thames High, Michelle went on to study at university, where she faced and overcame challenges with courage and resilience. She shared with us that she struggled with body image and developed an eating disorder, but through seeking help and healing, she rediscovered her strength — this time in the world of CrossFit.

"In recovery, I had to relearn what a healthy relationship with food and exercise looked like," she said. "That's when I found CrossFit — a high-intensity sport that combines elements from weightlifting, gymnastics, running, swimming, rowing, and more. You train to be everything, ready for anything."

Michelle's hard work and discipline have taken her to extraordinary heights. She has competed internationally at the Torian Pro — the CrossFit World Championship Semifinals — where she placed 16th in 2023 and 13th in 2024, competing against the very best, including world champion Tia Toomey. Last year, she won the New Zealand CrossFit Nationals and earned the title of Fittest in New Zealand.

She left our students with two powerful lessons:

"Number one — confidence is everything. Learning to back myself and switch off negative self-talk has been the biggest contributor to my success.

Number two — how you do anything is how you do everything. Your attitude and approach to one task reflects how you approach every challenge that comes your way.”

We thank Michelle for returning to inspire the next generation of Thames High athletes with her honesty, humility, and incredible story of perseverance.

To conclude the evening, we proudly introduced a new award — the Thames High School Sport Team of the Year.

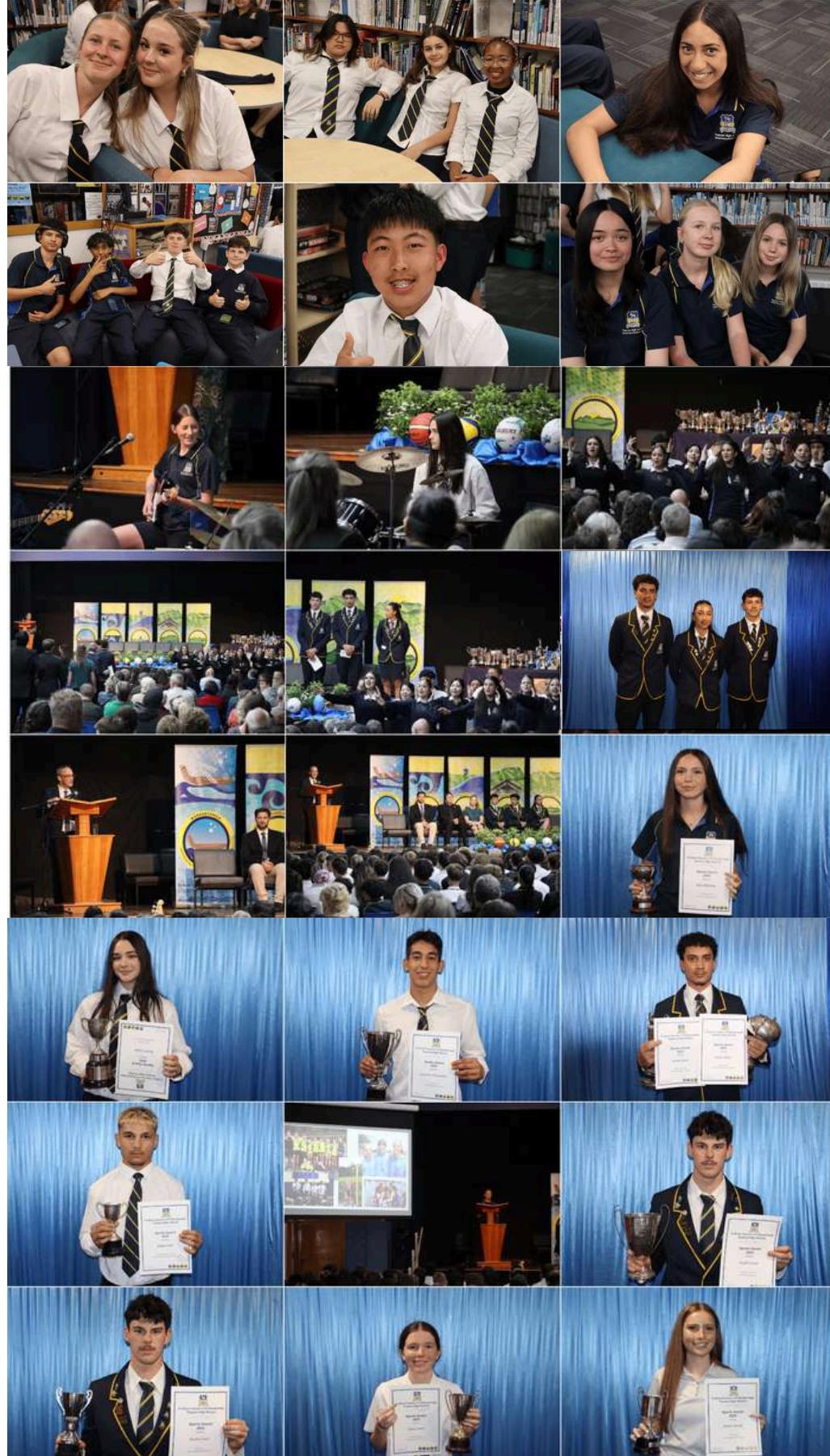
This year's inaugural winners are the Senior Mixed Touch Team, who were:

Mixed Touch team, who were:

- TV Secondary Schools WINNERS
- Waikato Secondary Schools Regional WINNERS
- 17th Overall at the Gold Coast Titans Queensland All Schools Touch Tournament

Congratulations to all our athletes, coaches, and supporters on another amazing year of sport at Thames High School.

Sport Prize Giving



Athletics

Old Boys Challenge - Senior Boys Champion
Watkin Memorial - Senior Boys Runner up
Carswell Cup - Senior Boys 3000m Champion
Rudman Cup - Senior Boys 1500m Champion
Bailey Cup - Senior Boys 800m Champion
Casey Athletic Cup - Senior Boys Sprint 100m & 200m
Galloway Memorial - Intermediate Boys Champion
THS Sports Club Trophy - Intermediate Boys Athletics Runner Up
Miller Cup - Intermediate Boys 1500m Champion
EG Brown Cup - Intermediate Boys 800m Champion
RSA Cup - Junior Boys Champion
THS Sports Club Trophy - Junior Boys Runner Up
Morrisey Cup - Junior Boys 1500m Champion
McLeish Cup - Junior Boys 800m Champion
Buick Cup - Senior Girls Champion
Danby Cup - Senior Girls Runner Up
Darrah Cup - Senior Girls Sprint Champion
Raewyn Cowles - Intermediate Girls Champion
Whiteman Cup - Intermediate Girls Runner Up
Junior Champion Cup - Junior Girls Champion
THS Sports Club Trophy - Junior Girls Athletics Runner Up
Rex Pearson Cup - Junior Girls 300m Champion

Austin Court
Ffin Owen
Lorenzo Yamamoto
Ffin Owen
Austin Court
Ffin Owen
Isayah Boyd
Walter Wiki
Luca Yamamoto
Isayah Boyd
Archie Stove
Fynn Paki
Jai Bradley
Jai Bradley
Ellie Johnston
Jess Rendall
Jess Rendall
Alzora Taylor
Maia Whitney
Olivia Kenny
Sophia Haakma
Olivia Kenny

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Thames Valley Athletics- 2nd High Jump, 2nd Discus, 3rd Javelin
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd 200m, 1st Triple Jump
Thames Valley Athletics- 2nd High Jump, 3rd Triple Jump
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd Triple Jump
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd 3000, 2nd 1500m
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd 300m, 3rd Triple Jump
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd 1500m
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd 400m
Thames Valley Athletics- 1st 100m
Thames Valley Athletics- 1st 300m
Thames Valley Athletics- 3rd 200m, 2nd 400m
Thames Valley Athletics- 1st 100m, 2nd High Jump
Thames Valley Athletics- 1st Long Jump

Alzora Taylor
Archie Stove
Rocky Tuhakaraina
Maia Whitney
Luca Yamamoto
Jason Prak
Jack McLaren
Lincoln Donaldson
Ben Eady
Lorenzo Yamamoto
Ffin Owen
Jess Rendall
Walter Wiki

Sports Laurel: Full Colour

Thames Valley Athletics- 1st Triple Jump: Wai/BoP Athletics-1st Triple jump:
North Island Athletics- 2nd Triple Jump
Thames Valley Athletics-1st 800: Wai/BoP Athletics-3rd 800m
Thames Valley Athletics- 1st High Jump, 2nd Triple Jump, 1st Long Jump:
Wai/BoP Athletics- 1st Triple Jump, 5th High Jump: North Island Athletics- 2nd Triple Jump

Isayah Boyd
Austin Court

Cross Country

Diamond Jubilee Shield - Senior Boys Champion
Thames Goldfields Centennial Cup - Intermediate Boys Champion
Stewart Cup - Junior Boys Champion
Old Pupils Association Cup - Senior Girls Champion
Gwen Brunton Cup - Intermediate Girls Champion
Ann Maskell Cup - Junior Girls Champion
Boys Cross Country Gold Medal - Fastest Overall Boy
Girls Cross Country Medal - Fastest Overall Girl

Austin Court
Jack McLaren
Jai Bradley
Jess Rendall
Zara Chamberlain
Sharleigha Burton
Jack McLaren
Jess Rendall

Swimming

Australia Cup - Senior Boys Champion
Brownlee Cup - Intermediate Boys Champion
Kings Theatre Cup - Junior Boys Champion
Joyce Cup - Senior Girls Champion
Twentyman Cup - Intermediate Girls Champion
Wilcox Cup - Junior Girls Champion

Austin Court
Luca Yamamoto
Nate Whitney
Lexis Rohrlach
Maia Whitney
Chloe Bergersen

Thames Valley Secondary Schools Swimming

TV Swimming Champs Intermediate Girls 2nd Overall
TV Swimming Champs Senior Boys 2nd Overall
TV Swimming Champs Senior Boys 3rd Overall

Maia Whitney
Lorenzo Yamamoto
Austin Court

Sport Laurel: Half Colour

Senior Boys 3rd Place Overall

Austin Court

O TE KAUARANGA

Sports Laurel: Full Colour

TV Swimming Intermediate Girls 2nd Overall, Waikato Swimming Champs

Intermediate Girls 2nd - 50 Backstroke

Maia Whitney
10HNETV Swimming Senior Boys 2nd Overall, Waikato Swimming Champs Senior Boys 3rd -
50m ButterflyLorenzo Yamamoto
H2FRG**Hockey**

Ison Family Trophy - Most Outstanding Boys Player

Troy Costello

AJR Trophy - Most Valuable Girls Player

Annie Perrett

Cecila Dunlop Cup - Most Improved Girls Player

Eliza Carter

Thames Valley Hockey - 11 Aside Winners

Roman Smith, Sharleigh Burton 9REDW, Chloe Bergersen 10AGM, Laura Elliott 10DMC, Kiera Nunn 10F
 Cleo Challis 10HNE, Arabella Hall 10HNE, Jack Smith 10HNE, Miya Costello A1MJR, Eliza Carter D1NNC
 Dimple Martin D1NND, Bella Bevan R3ROG, Scarlet Crook A3HAR, Annie Perrett A3HAR, Troy Costello I
 Ellie Johnston H3BAV

Representative Sport Badge

Thames Valley U16 Representative

Miya Costello

Thames Valley U16 Representative

Troy Costello

**Netball**

Coromandel Foods Trophy - All Round Excellence in Open A Netball

Lawron Waite

Coromandel Foods Trophy - Most Improved Open A Player

Chloe Paynter

Fielder Family Cup - Most Valuable Player (Open A)

Caileigh Poipoi

Palethorpe Whānau - Wahine Toa Trophy (Open A)

Storm Ratima

Thames High School Olsen Cup - Most Promising Junior Development Player

Ava McQuarters

Parke Whanau Trophy - Most Improved Development Player

Olivia Baines

Thames High School Ruru Cup - Most Promising 10A Player

Ruby Te Raki-Coleman

Thames High School Year 9 Netball Trophy - Most Promising 9A Player

Silver-Jay Thomas

Thames High School Junior Girls Netball Trophy - Best Junior All Rounder

Lilly Donaldson

- Improvement, Attitude & Commitment to team, coach and her netball team

Lucie Miller

Thames High School Cup - Junior Girl Most Improved Junior Girl Most Improved

Sapphire Taurua-Stoneham

H Stewart Trophy - Services to Netball Umpiring

Payton De Thierry

THS Netball Trophy - Most Improved 10A Player

Alina Pleydell

Watts Family Trophy - Best All Rounder 9A Netball

Lukka McCulloch

Watts Family Trophy - Most Promising Senior Player

Taylor Lamont

Thames Sports Trophy - Most Improved Senior Player

Kyah Lyon

Representative Sport Badge

Abbey Mobberley

Thames Valley U18 Representative

Ora Wiki

Waihi Netball Assn - Secondary Schools Championship B Grade Winners 2025

Amber Rayment 10AGM, Gwen Kingi 10DMC, Takaimo-Riria Waite H1PRD, Lily McCarthy R1DVY, Lawron Waite H1PRD, Holly Bradley H2FRG, Storm Ratima D2SCO, Abbey Mobberley H2FRG, Chloe Paynter H2FRG, Ellie Johnston H3BAV, Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN, Ora Wiki R2ALN

Waihi Netball Assn - Secondary Schools Netball Junior B Grade Winners 2025

Silver-Jay Thomas 9ASLA, Arrica Morrison 9HEMY, Alina Pleydell 9HEMY, Sapphire Ross 9HEMY, Sapphire Taurua-Stoneham 9HEMY, Savannah Bevan 9REDW, Neave Merrett 9REDW, Lucie Miller 9REDW, Nico Rolton 9REDW

**Rugby**

Thames High School 1st XV Rugby Cup - 1st XV Player of the Year

Isayah Boyd

Ricky Lidgard Memorial Cup - Most Dedicated 1st XV Member

Danny Topia

Richardson Real Estate Trophy - Most Promising 1st XV Member

Harley Harris

Thames High School 4th Grade Cup (U15) - Player of the Year

Archie Stove

Thames High School 4th Grade Cup (U15) - Attitude/Sportsmanship & Behaviour to the Team

Eli O'Neil

Thames High School Medal - Youth Boys Top Try Scorer

Tyler Smith

Vita Dryden Cup - Girls Rugby - Most Improved Player

Dimple Martin

Makara Trophy - Girls Rugby - Best Team Player

Laura Donald

Kerebs Trophy - Girls Rugby - Most Valuable Player

Taylor Menzies

Liddell Building Trophy - Girls - Most Valuable Girls Player

Gracie Miller

Thames High School Medal - Most Improved Player

Cole Muir

Eketone Family Trophy - Boys Rugby - Back Player of the Year

Takalia Turner

Eketone Family Trophy - Forward Player of the Year

Max White

Thames High School Youth Boys - Coaches Player of the Year - All round Commitment, dedication to the tr

Carson Fletcher

Thames High School Medal - 1st XV Rugby Most Valuable Player

Walter Wiki

Thames High School Medal - 1st XV Rugby Best Team Player

Tate Leathem





Representative Sport Badge

Thames Valley U14 Boys
Thames Valley U14 Boys
Thames Valley U14, Thames Valley U16 Boys
Thames Valley U19 Girls
Thames Valley U16 Boys
Thames Valley U19 Girls
Thames Valley U19 Girls
Thames Valley U19 Girls

Sirius Wilcox
Toby Dryden
Archie Stove
Takaimo-Riria Waite
Walter Wiki
Taylor Menzies
Laura Donald
Caileigh Poipo

Football

Thames Soccer Club Trophy - Best All Round Senior Boy
H J Maskell Trophy - Most Improved Senior Boy
Thames High School Trophy - 1st XI Boys Football Golden Boot
Terry Wood Cup - Excellence in Senior Girls Football
Dovell Trophy - Most Improved Senior Girl
Thames High School Trophy - 1st XI Girls Football Golden Boot
Thames High School Football Medal - Best All Rounder - Improvement, Attitude & Commitment to team, and football

Matthew Wilson
Lorenzo Yamamoto
Jack McLaren
Jess Rendall
Annie Perrett
Jess Rendall
Jessica Atrill
Daniel Hewlett
Fynn Paki
Daniel Restauro
Joseph Dobie
Fynn Paki
Pearl Newton

Warren Kidd Trophy - Best All Round Junior Boy
Thames High School Trophy - Most Improved Junior Boy

Sprott Family Trophy- Most Promising Junior Boys Player
Thames High School Trophy - Best All Round Junior Girl

Terry Wood Cup - Most Improved Junior Girl
Curnow Award - Outstanding Effort and Sportsmanship
Thames High School Medal - Best Team Player

Olivia Baines 9HEMY
Kaleb Wynen 9DGDR
Luke Hollis A2PHL

Waikato Secondary School Soccer Assn - Junior Boys Division 4 Winners 2025

David Charles 9ASLA, Finn O'Shea 9ASLA, Daniel Restauro 9ASLA, Roy Rettymon 9ASLA, Aidan Tinto 9ASLA, Alex Atrill 9DGDR, Bayley Lee David 9DGDR, Decian Fenton 9DGDR, Darcy King 9DGDR, Fynn Paki 9DGDR, Nikau Racey - Williams 9DGDR, Kaleb Wynen 9DGDR, Luke De La Rive Box-Harison 9REDW, Joseph Dobie 9REDW, Daniel Reber 10AGM, Blake McLaren 10DMC, Wyatt Doherty 10HNE, Luca Yamamoto 10HNE, Jason Prak 10RWT

Waikato Secondary School Soccer Assn - Senior Girls Division 4 Runners Up 2025

Jessica Atrill D1NND, Dimple Martin D1NND, Arleea Douglas D2SCO, Lily McCarthy R1DVY, Gracie Miller R1DVY, Bella Bevan R3ROG, Annie Perrett A3HAR, Neka Woolf D2SCO, Armani Parata R2ALN, Jess Rendall R2ALN, Elie Johnston H3BAV

Waikato Secondary School Football Association - Girls 5 A-Side Championship Winners

Mia McCaskill 9ASLA, Pearl Newton 9ASLA, Olivia Baines 9HEMY, Chloe Booth 10AGM, Jessica Atrill D1NND, Dimple Martin D1NND

Basketball

Shane & Sandy Davis Cup - Most Valuable Senior Boy
Thames High School Senior Boys Basketball Trophy - Most Improved Senior Boy
Boots 'n' All Junior Boys Basketball Trophy - Most Valuable Junior Boy
Sterling Huett Junior Boys Basketball Trophy - Most Improved Junior Boy

Takalia Turner
Brandon Berger
Lyle Owen-Woods
Tyron Baker
Koby Maddren
Zack McNair
Fynn Paki
Simrat Kaur
Jayda Fraser
Tylahzae Feilo-Eketone
Nikau Racey-Williams
Byron Johnson
Jedi Taylor

Thames High School Trophy - Junior Boys Most Promising Player

Thames High School Junior Girls Basketball Trophy - Most Valuable Junior Girl
Thames High School Junior Girls Basketball Trophy - Most Improved Junior Girl
Thames High School Medal - Most Improved Junior Boys Player

Boston Graham
Mia McCaskill
Pearl Newton
Olivia Kenny
Zack McNair
Thamenen Kong
Liam Le Roux
Nate Whitney
Devon Smith
Alzora Taylor
Lyle Owen-Woods
Tyler Smith

Thames High School Year 8 Participation Medal

Representative Sport Badge

Thames Valley Representative
Thames Valley Representative

Boston Graham
Mia McCaskill
Pearl Newton
Olivia Kenny
Zack McNair
Thamenen Kong
Liam Le Roux
Nate Whitney
Devon Smith
Alzora Taylor
Lyle Owen-Woods
Tyler Smith

O TE KAUAE RANGA

Thames Valley Representative
Thames Valley Representative
Thames Valley Representative
Thames Valley Representative
Thames Valley Representative

Max White
Cole Muir
Dimple Martin
Carson Fletcher
Takalia Turner

Thames Valley Secondary School Basketball Junior Boys 2025 Winners

Boston Graham 9ASLA, Devon Smith 9REDW, Tyron Baker 10AGM, Eli O'Neil 10AGM, Koby Maddren 10Lyle Owen-Woods 10DMC, Wyatt Doherty 10HNE, Luca Yamamoto 10HNE, Jason Prak 10RWT, Tyler S 10RWT, Max White 10RWT

Thames Valley Secondary School Basketball Junior Girls 2025 Winners

Mia McCaskill 9ASLA, Pearl Newton 9ASLA, Olivia Kenny 9DGDR, Narita Veng 9DGDR, Olivia Baines 9 Jayda Fraser 9HEMY, Alina Pleydell 9HEMY, Alzora Taylor 10AGM, Arabella King 10HNE, Simrat Kaur 10

Squash**Sports Laurel: Half Colour**

Thames Valley Squash Division 3 Runner Up
Thames Valley Squash Division 2 Winner
Thames Valley Squash Division 2 Plate
Thames Valley Squash Division 1 Winner

Felix Milner
Jep Donaldson
Winner Troy Costello
Austin Court

Badminton

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy - Senior Boys Doubles Champions

Austin Court

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy - Senior Girls Doubles Champions

Matthew Wilson

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy - Junior Boys Doubles Champions

Ellie Johnston

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy- Junior Girls Doubles Champions

Romie Dargaville Rehua

Badminton

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy - Senior Boys Doubles Champions

Austin Court

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy - Senior Girls Doubles Champions

Matthew Wilson

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy - Junior Boys Doubles Champions

Ellie Johnston

Thames High School Badminton Club Trophy- Junior Girls Doubles Champions

Romie Dargaville Rehua

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Thames Valley Badminton Junior Boys Doubles Runner Up
Thames Valley Badminton Junior Boys Doubles Runner Up
Thames Valley Badminton Junior Boys Singles Runner Up
Thames Valley Badminton Senior Girls Singles Runner Up

Jack Smith

Fynn Tyson

Eva Ellis

Gwen Kingi

Golf

THS Golf Trophy - Best Team Player

Jep Donaldson

Volleyball

Thames High School Medal - Senior Girls Most Improved

Lianna Sanchez

Thames High School Trophy - Senior Girls Most Valuable Player

Jemima Chewe

Chess

THS Chess Trophy - Overall Chess Champion

Jessica Atrill

Sports Laurel : Half Colour**Hauraki Plains Chess Regionals 1st Place**

Immanuel Huwald

Alex Atrill 9DGDR, Byron Johnson 9REDW, Cleo Challis 10HNE, Kim Ju Taing D1NND, Immanuel Huwald H2FRG, Jay Majurey H2FRG

Rugby League**Sports Laurel: Full Colour**

Auckland Rugby League Winners of the Shaun Johnson Memorial Shield, Counties U18 Rugby League

Efin Owen





Thames High School Sport - Team of the Year



Senior Mixed Touch Team

TV Secondary schools WINNERS, Waikato Secondary Schools Regional WINNERS, Gold Coast Titans
Queensland All Schools Touch Tournament - 17 th overall

Archie Stove 10DMC, Takaimo-Riria Waite, Carson Fletcher H3BAV, Lawron Waite H1PRD, Isayah Boyd H3BAV, Ffin Owen H3BAV, Walter Wiki R2ALN, Harley Harris D3KMR, Taylor Menzies D3KMR, Ollie Stove D3KMR, Chloe Paynter H2FRG, Tate Leathem H3BAV, Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN, Danny Topia R2ALN, Gracie Miller R1DVY

Touch

Alex Morrison Touch Trophy - Best Team Mates

Taylor Menzies D3KMR
Danny Topia R2ALN
Isayah Boyd H3BAV
Ffin Owen H3BAV
Walter Wiki R2ALN

Thames High School Senior Mixed Touch- Most Improved Player
Thames High School Senior Mixed Touch - Player of the Year

Tyron Baker 10AGM
Archie Stove 10DMC
Walter Wiki R2ALN
Fynn Paki 9DGDR
Olivia Baines 9HEMY
Taylor Menzies D3KMR
Ffin Owen H3BAV
Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN
Harley Harris D3KMR

Representative Sport Badge

Thames Valley U16 Mixed (2024-25, 2025-26)

Thames Valley U16 Mixed (2024-25)

Thames Valley U16 Mixed (2025-26)

Thames Valley U16 Mixed, Thames Valley U14 Boys (2025-26)

Thames Valley U14 Girls (2025-26)

Thames Valley U21 Mixed (2024-25)

Thames Valley Secondary School Touch Overall Winners 2025 - Senior Mixed

Archie Stove 10DMC, Takaimo-Riria Waite, Carson Fletcher H3BAV, Lawron Waite H1PRD, Isayah Boyd H3BAV, Ffin Owen H3BAV, Walter Wiki R2ALN, Harley Harris D3KMR, Taylor Menzies D3KMR, Ollie Stove D3KMR, Chloe Paynter H2FRG, Tate Leathem H3BAV, Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN, Danny Topia R2ALN, Ora Wiki R2ALN

Waikato Secondary School Touch Overall Winners 2025 - Senior Mixed

Archie Stove 10DMC, Takaimo-Riria Waite, Carson Fletcher H3BAV, Lawron Waite H1PRD, Isayah Boyd H3BAV, Ffin Owen H3BAV, Walter Wiki R2ALN, Harley Harris D3KMR, Taylor Menzies D3KMR, Ollie Stove D3KMR, Chloe Paynter H2FRG, Tate Leathem H3BAV, Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN, Danny Topia R2ALN, Gracie Miller R1DVY

Gymsport

Sports Laurel : Full Colour

Outstanding achievement in Gymnastics for 2025

Ellie Johnston

Cricket

Sports Laurel: Full Colour

Outstanding Achievement in Womens Cricket for 2025

Jess Rendall

Tennis

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Thames Valley Tennis Champs 2nd Place Junior Boys Singles

Fynn Paki

Thames Valley Tennis Champs 1st Place Intermediate Girls Singles

Jodie Louden

Thames Valley Tennis Champs 2nd place Senior Girls Singles

Greta Burba

Thames Valley Tennis Champs 2nd Place Senior Boys Doubles

Troy Costello

Thames Valley Tennis Champs 1st Place Senior Girls Doubles

Austin Court

Brooke Muir

Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong

Motocross

Thames Valley Motorcycle Club Trophy - Most Improved Motocross Team Member

Jack McLaren

Thames Valley Motorcycle Club Trophy - All Round Sportsmanship – Contribution and participation in THS Motocross Team and achievement at a reasonable level

Jack McLaren

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

GNCC Round 2 - 2nd Place, Woodhill Cross Country - 1st Place U16, Enduro Under 300CC - 2nd Place

Mountain Biking

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Whangamata MTB Enduro - 2nd Fastest Rider Overall, 1st Place U17

Jack McLaren

Boxing

Sports Laurel: Full Colour

North Island Golden Gloves Nationals - 2nd Place Overall

Cameron Killian

Adventure Racing

White Family Trophy - For most valuable team member demonstrating outstanding commitment, skills and chosen by the Hillary Adventure Racing Team

Alzora Taylor

Luca Yamamoto

Toby Dryden

Hinds-Haye Family Trophy - Adventure Racing Most Improved

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Whangamata 6 hour Adventure Race 4th Overall, 1st Senior Mixed

Austin Court

Martial Arts

Sports Laurel: Half Colour

Brazilian Jui-jitsu - Silver under 76kg Mens Division

Matthew Wilson

Service to Sport

Acknowledging the time, effort and support you have given to Sport at Thames High School and the Thames Community. (Year 13)

Daniel Hewlett D2SCO, Harley Harris D3KMR, Taylor Menzies D3KMR, Troy Costello H2FRG Austin Court, H2FRG Abbey Moberley H2FRG, Mathew Wilson H2FRG, Laura Donald R2ALN, Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN, Ora Wiki R2ALN, Ollie Stove D3KMR, Lexis Rohrlach H1PRD

AMP Trophy Colin Barlow AMP Cup

Best All Round Contribution to Thames High School Sport

Caileigh Poipoi R2ALN

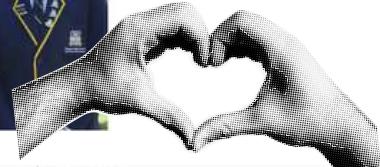
Sport Volunteers

Your contribution to sport within our Kura is much appreciated

Declan Fenton 9DGDR, Phoenix Horton 9DGD, Darcy King 9DGDR, Nikau Racey-Williams 9DGDR, Sapphire Taurua-Stoneham 9HEMY, Nate Whitney 9HEMY, Savannah Bevan 9REDW, Jai Bradley 9REDW, Sharleigha Burton 9REDW, Luke De La Rive Box-Harison 9REDW, Toby Dryden 9REDW, Ollie Louden 9REDW, Lucie Miller 9REDW, Jake Sara 9REDW, Devon Smith 9REDW, Tyron Baker 10AGM, Eli O'Neil 10AGM, Archie Stove 10DMC, Rocky Tuahakaraina 10DMC, Tyler Smith 10RWT, Dimple Martin D1NND, Carson Fletcher H3BAV

Coaches and Managers - Without your support, patience and love of the game, our sport would not be possible - Nga mihi

ATHLETICS	TIC / Coach	Jen Fletcher
BASKETBALL	TIC	Tess Watts
Senior Boys	Coach/Manager	Luke Hale
JNR Girls	Coach/Manager	Phill Taylor
Junior Boys Yr 9	Coach/Manager	Shannon Paki /Annalese Nair
Junior Boys Yr 10	Coach/Manager	Phill Taylor /Kelly Carter
FOOTBALL	TIC	Kiryn Curnow
Senior Boys	Coach/Manager	Kim Court
Senior Girls	Coach/Manager	Xavier Brown /Rechelle Rendall
Junior Boys	Coach/Manager	Shannon Paki /Michael Dobie
MOUNTAIN BIKING	Coach / Manager	Chris Harison /Rod Edwards /Lisa Barnett
GET 2 GO	TIC/Coach/Manager	Rod Edwards /Lisa Barnett
GOLF	TIC / Manager	Rod Edwards
HILLARY CHALLENGE	Coach	Rod Edwards
HOCKEY	TIC	Alicia Costello / Pauline Managh
Boy/Girls	Coach/Manager	Graeme Taylor /Pauline Managh
NETBALL	TIC / PIC	Tess Watts
Open A	Coach/Manager	Teresa Taurua / Kelly Tauroa /Tess Watts
Open B	Coach/Manager	Karen McCulloch
Yr 10 A	Coach/Manager	Rose Corbett /Elaine Tukuitoga
Yr 9A	Coach/Manager	Kelly Tauroa /Bernadette Parke
JNR Devo	Coach/Manager	Ora Wiki /Abbey Mobberley /Nena Richards



RUGBY	TIC	Jen Fletcher
1st XV - Combined	Coach/Manager	CAS Coaches
Youth Girls	Coach / manager	Jon Liddell
U15 Youth Boys	Coach/Manager	Brad Morehu /Wiremu Eketone /Vita Dryden /Michelle Maholland
RUGBY 7s	TIC	Jen Fletcher
SNR Boys	Coach/Manager	Geb Owen /Walter Wiki
Open Girls	Coach/Manager	Jon Liddell
JNR Boys	Coach / Manager	Brad Morehu
TEENNIS	PIC/Manager	Shannon Paki /Pauline Managh
TOUCH	TIC	Tess Watts /Jen Fletcher
SNR Mixed	Coach/Manager	Alex Morrison /Jen Fletcher /Tess Watts
TV JNR BOYS	Coach/Manager	Torez Wiperi Karauria Heta
TV JNR GIRLS	Coach/Manager	Shannon Paki
Year 10 Girls	Coach / Manager	Wayne Witney
Year 9 / 10 Boys	Coach / Manager	Tyron Baker
Year 9 Girls	Coach / Manager	Shannon Paki
VOLLEYBALL	TIC/Coach/Manager	Alicia Costello /AJ Caigoy
E Sport / VR	TIC	Jesse Watson /Alicia Costello



Australian Maths Tournament

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 the following students:

Year 10

Felix Milner - Credit Award

Maia Whitney - Proficiency Award

Lilly Donaldson - Proficiency Award

Chloe Bergersen - Participation

Chloe Booth - Proficiency Award

Yuzuki Nomura - Proficiency Award

Amber Rayment - Proficiency Award

Amisha Thayyil - Proficiency Award

Year 12

Eliza Carter - Proficiency Award

Immanuel Huwald - Credit Award

Anja Watling - Proficiency Award

Abbygail Patterson - Proficiency Award

Musa Ndlovu - Proficiency Award

Year 13

Palarry Rous Proficiency Award

Poems: Year 10

Based on Shakespeare text

I don't love you because of what I see but my eyes spot flaws as clear as it can be,
Still my heart can't resist loving what my eyes mainly miss,
Your voice is not like music, it's more like noise,
your touch is not my choice,
Nothing about you gives me the chill but my silly heart just won't behave,
It keeps chasing you like I'm a slave,
It doesn't care if it's dumb or wrong but it's stuck on you and holding strong,
at least in this mess is what I gain,
the one who makes me sin brings me pain.

Faria Fahim Year 10

Julieanna Sem (Year 10)



I don't love you, but you love me.
It's quite the catastrophe.

Though your beauty looks like art, and your smile shines like stars in the dark.

I cannot love you, try I might.

It just doesn't seem to sit right.

You ask me why.

I have no clue.

Why does my heart not beat with the same feelings as you.

I have no interest in love or creating life.

So I'm starting to think I might be broken, because I can't put my heart out in the open. Maybe I'll find the one, or maybe there will never be one.

So maybe one day I'll die alone, in my small but cosy home.

Ethan Coombes (Year 10)



Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

THS librarian bookmarks 10-year chapter

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A love of reading was fostered through Ruth Howes' early experiences of being read to as a child and also receiving a book in every Santa sack.

It was the early spark that fuelled the Thames High School librarians' passion to see students connect with books. It's what makes it all the more meaningful as the librarian prepares to finish her time in the role at the end of October, after 10 years of dedication.

The librarian told *The Profile* she loved when she could see "the light being turned on" as students discovered books that grabbed their attention.

Ruth started out her career, not as a librarian, but as a head kindergarten teacher at Tairua Kindergarten. "I then had seven years teaching English to [ages] three to seventeen-year-olds in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur."

When Ruth and her husband, Wayne Howes, shifted back to New Zealand at the end of 2013, Wayne scored a teaching position at Moanaia Primary School, she said.

Ruth decided to upgrade her diploma of early childhood to a Bachelor of Teaching, majoring in Professional Education, she said, and while she worked on the upgrade - she said she was asked to relieve the librarian at Thames High School who was on sick leave.



After 10 years of dedication, the Thames High School librarian Ruth Howes leaves a well-read legacy. Photos: SUPPLIED

"Unfortunately, she passed away and I successfully applied for the role as librarian at THS."

When Ruth joined Thames High in 2014, she recognised students she taught back in kindergarten, she said.

"[I] felt very privileged to see them at the beginning of their school and to see them reach their potential and leave secondary

school."

The library was a space where she helped to facilitate the school's chess club, and also where she led the librarian club.

"Some students needed a space to feel safe. These few became student librarians and it [the club] soon grew," she said.

"Student librarians are incredible and each has their own little

niche within the library. Having these students reach their goals and succeed in all they do was fantastic."

It was hard for Ruth to pick just one proud moment from her time at Thames High. "I don't have one proud moment - there are many," she said.

One moment was when she helped a student from a home-



The Thames High School Chess Club.

school background settle in at school, who later became dux, she said. Another was when she took a group of students to a chess tournament and said she came home "feeling very appreciated".

"Being a shy person it was hard to put myself out there, but I think this also helped those types of students to realise they can do anything," Ruth said.

"I was never sure about working with teenagers but quickly realised that they were like four year olds [who] just had a bigger attitude and bigger feet."

The next thing Ruth looked forward to was a bit of "me time", private tutoring and hooking up the caravan to the ute and travelling, she said. But the legacy she hoped to leave behind at Thames High was that everyone felt welcome in the library.

"Libraries don't have to be a quiet space. They should be a space where everybody and anybody feels welcome."



A poem shared in the comments of a facebook page about the above article from community member: Donna Maree Cox:

For Ruth Howes
On Your Retirement from Thames High School

Among the shelves where stories live,
You've given all you had to give—
Guiding hearts, both shy and bold,
To chase their dreams, to seek, to hold.
With gentle words and patient care,
You lit the way for tamariki there.
Each book, each smile, each thoughtful deed,
Has planted hope—a precious seed.
Now close the chapter, lift your eyes,
New journeys wait beneath our skies.
With Wayne beside you, kind and true,
The motu calls—adventure too!
Though quiet souls may walk unseen,
Their footprints linger, soft yet keen.
For Ruth, your kindness, calm and rare,
Will echo always—everywhere.

Education

Thames High science star set to retire

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The number one thing Ewan Grant-Mackie hopes his students remember most about him is "my ability to laugh at myself".

The 65-year-old assistant head of department for science at Thames High School told *The Profile* laughter was a constant feature in his department.

"I am surrounded by amazing and cheerful department members. The support we get and give from each other is fantastic."

When it came to the students, he said it "fills me with pride" to see their care and acceptance.

"It reminds me that in spite of much negative media, our youth are capable of some amazing skills and attitudes."

It sets the tone as the dedicated educator, who is one of the school's longest-standing teachers, prepares to retire at the end of the school year.

Ewan started his journey as a teacher at Thames High in late January 1988. Apart from a year off in 2006 to study pukeko DNA, a term off in 2019 to look after his father when his mother passed away, and six months off in 2022 following heart surgery - "I have taught fulltime since then".

One thing that helped to keep Ewan at Thames High was the proximity of Thames to Auckland when he was involved in regular sports such as underwater hockey, and later the proximity to Tau-



Ewan Grant-Mackie
With his year-11
science class. RIGHT:
Ewan with science
teachers.
Photos: SUPPLIED



Another "incredibly satisfying and humbling" moment was when brain scientist at Auckland Medical School Professor Maurice Curtis acknowledged Ewan as the biology teacher who started him on his career journey, he said.

It wasn't hard to see - Ewan's dedication to his role and his students was unmistakable.

One of the greatest lessons Ewan said he learned from his students was about the strength and passion to "stand up for what you believe in", he said, "especially when you think someone has been unfairly treated".

"Students don't always get it right in the way they respond, but you have to admire their loyalty."

Ewan said he looked forward to having time to read, learn a new instrument, exercise, and catch up with family and rest in retirement.

As his time at Thames High will soon come to a close, he leaves behind not just lessons, but a legacy.

The message he wanted to share with the school community was captured in a quote by Albert Einstein: "not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts".

ranga, where his daughter lived, he said. "I love the bush and sea, and have enjoyed them both here in Thames." In recent years as a horticulture teacher, Ewan said it was wonderful to see the 15- and 16-year-old boys race off to the garden in order to eat their newly grown radishes, carrots and peas.

"I still get a kick out of seeing students apply a newly learnt scientific concept... to their own world around them and make sense of things."

Something that recently occurred to Ewan was the fact he was now teaching grandchildren of his earlier students. His teaching style had changed in part over the years because of feedback and lessons learned from teaching the grandparents of some of his current students, he said.

"As a result, if there is anything my current students like or appreciate about me as a teacher, they should thank their grandparents."

It was fair to say he had a few

proud teacher moments.

"When I was recovering from major heart surgery a couple of years ago, I discovered that my cardiac care nurse was an ex-student from my year 12 biology class who had been fascinated by my descriptions of my three-year-old daughter's heart surgery, and she decided to go into cardiac care."

Ewan said his daughter was born with a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), which is a congenital heart defect.

Cleo Challis, Alzora Taylor and Amber Rayment (all Year 10) interviewed Mr Mackie about his time as a teacher here:

Mr. Mackie began teaching in 1988. He took a one-year break in 2006 and is retiring in 2025, marking 36 years of dedicated teaching.

He says he will miss the students and staff, describing them as "good people." He also takes pride in seeing how successful his horticulture students have become over the years.

Mr. Mackay has loved all of his rōpu classes, noting that each group is very different, but he has cherished them all.

His dream of becoming a teacher started back in the 1970s when he was in Year 12. His goal has always been to make the world and the next generation better educated.

Funny memory: "One weekend, I came in to prepare my classroom and decided to refill my water pistol, not realising the water had been turned off. Somehow, I forgot to turn the tap off, and the next morning I was shocked and embarrassed to find the janitor cleaning a flooded classroom!"

Advice for the next generation: "Be honest with yourself and show respect for others"

By: Cleo Challis



Advice From Year 13

Ora: "Have fun, you're only sixteen once."

Laura: "Enjoy it while it lasts"

Tahliah: "Ask a lot of questions, don't hold yourself back."

Eylul: "You'll get over it."

Izzy: "Make use of every opportunity, even if it's not your first choice."

Tamihana: "Don't fall in love too quickly"

Kayla: "Don't stress out, everything will be fine, just have fun and take every opportunity."

Pavelyn: "Year 12 is where things count so before then have fun! Make the most of every opportunity you're given."

Lexi: "Sign up for everything because it's harder to do it when you're older."

Palarry: "You're here for a long time, so just try to make it the best and most fun time it can be!"

Annabelle: "Have fun. And in year 11, 12, and 13, actually start your assessments on time."

Naomi: "Don't worry about what people are thinking about you because they probably are not at all."

Matthew: "Don't take life too seriously, you'll never make it out alive"

Shiloh K: "It's better to start looking ahead and prepare now than to look back and regret later."

Caileigh: "Dedicate yourself to what you're passionate about."

Brennan: "Life can get hard sometimes but trust it'll always get easier"

Akeira: "Time is a thief. Cherish every second, high school flies by quicker than you'll expect."

Ava: "Don't let friendship group drama consume you and make you second guess your worth."

Wikitoria: "Don't worry about how others view you"

Austin: "Who's in Parris???"

Troy P: "Listen to the teacher's advice of doing some study, just not 5 hours a day that's awful."

Luke Peter Hollis III: "remember the fun times you've had"

Troy C: "Make friends with the new librarian."

Senior Prize Giving

We're so proud of our incredible students for their effort, achievement and dedication this year! Congratulations to all of our award recipients for 2025.

Principals address at Senior Prize Giving:

**Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.
Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga.**

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa.

Welcome, once again, to our guests, kaimahi, taiohi, and whānau.

While not physically represented tonight, I would like to acknowledge our tertiary partners — the University of Waikato, University of Otago, and University of Auckland — who have awarded scholarships being presented this evening.

Thank you also to all staff involved in the mahi behind the scenes: selecting recipients, preparing certificates and trophies, and managing all the details that make this evening possible.

Our school vision is:

Kia kotahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata — We grow together to achieve one's true potential.

Tonight, we celebrate those who have shown dedication and perseverance to achieve their potential across learning and other pursuits. We recognise excellence, diligence, and achievement in academic study, sport, the arts, culture, and service to our school and community.

Special thanks to all students, parents, and friends who have given their time to coach, manage, and lead the activities that make our kura such a vibrant, enriching place to learn.

Each award presented this evening reflects the support and encouragement of our kaiako, teachers, whānau, parents, and peers.

To those being recognised, please take a moment to thank your teachers and whānau for their unwavering belief in you.

We are also grateful for the service and commitment of our School Board. Their governance and dedication to our school's vision and mission continue to guide us forward.

To our hardworking teaching and non-teaching staff — your tireless efforts are the foundation of the success we celebrate tonight. You go above and beyond for our students, and it is deeply appreciated.



O TE KAUARANGA

Staff Farewells

I wish to acknowledge the service of several staff members who are leaving us at the end of this year.

Mr Clive Nixon, after seven years as our ESOL teacher, is retiring to return to travelling and his passion for the classical world. Clive has supported our international students both academically and pastorally.

Mrs Ruth Howes is also retiring, after 11 years at Thames High School. Ruth, thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and the warmth you have brought to our kura. You leave behind a legacy we are truly grateful for.

Mrs Kiryn Curnow, after a year of refreshment leave, is moving to Auckland to be closer to whānau. Kiryn has given 17 years of service to our school. Her dedication to teaching Biology and Science, and her contributions to football and the wider life of the school, have enriched the lives of many taiohi.

Mrs Frances Crooymans, after eight years as our finance and payroll administrator, making sure everything adds up, and staff all get paid, is retiring.

Mr Ewan Grant-Makie is also retiring at the end of the year, after an extraordinary 38 years of service as a teacher of Biology, Science, and Horticulture. The farewells later this term will, no doubt, be poignant as we acknowledge the lasting impact Ewan has made on generations of students and colleagues.

To all our departing staff — as you move on to new opportunities, we wish you and your whānau every success and happiness.

Closing Reflections

A heartfelt thank you also to our senior student leaders. Your leadership has strengthened our school spirit and set a strong example for others to follow.

As we reflect on this year's journey, let us remember that success is not measured solely by awards — it is found in the resilience, integrity, and commitment to learning that shape who we are and who we aspire to become.

To those concluding their time at our kura, embrace the next step with confidence. As graduates of Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga | Thames High School, you carry forward the values and aspirations of our community. The friendships formed here, the challenges overcome, and the successes earned will continue to shape who you are — and who you will become.

To every young person here tonight: your unique strengths, determination, and potential inspire us all. The future is yours to shape.

Wishing you all the very best as you prepare for study leave and your upcoming exams. Give your best effort, knowing that — whatever the outcome — your future holds bright opportunities.

Ngā mihi nui, me te tūmanako kia angitu koutou katoa.



O TE KAUARANGA

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's a privilege to be here on behalf of the School Board of Trustees, some of which are also here this evening to acknowledge and to celebrate the achievements of these, our students, the dedication of our staff and the steadfast support of our whānau and our wider community.

Tonight marks a moment of reflection and pride for what has been accomplished and what lies ahead. To you, our students, thank you. Congratulations. You have worked hard, adapted to challenges, shown determination, creativity, and courage. You've balanced study, sport, work, and friendships, and you've done so in a world that has changed faster than ever before. Whether you're receiving an award tonight or simply completing another year, you have achieved something significant.

To your parents, caregivers, and families, thank you. Your encouragement, patience, and belief can carry these young people further than they often realise. Behind every success is someone who cares, who listens, and who believes that they can do it.

To our teachers, support staff, and leadership team, this award acknowledges your professionalism, your resilience, and your unwavering commitment to these, our students, you do more than just teach subjects. You shape lives, and you do it with heart.

Here in Thames, we know the value of perseverance. Ours is a community built on hard work, connection, and care. A place where people look out for one another. That same spirit runs through this school. It's not just a place of learning, it's a place of belonging.

The values taught here, respect, integrity, and service, are the same values that will carry our young people through the rest of their own lives. These are the quiet strengths that make a difference. Showing up, following through, helping others, and striving to do what is right, even when it is difficult.

To our Year 13 students, as you prepare to leave Thames High, know that you carry this community with you. Whatever direction you take, university, work, trades, travel, or service, I encourage you to go with confidence.

You have been shaped by a town and a school that values character as much as achievement, and kindness as much as success. You will definitely face new challenges, but you will also discover new strengths. Trust them. Stay curious. Keep learning. Wherever life takes you, remember that this will always be your place. A place that is proud of you, and will always welcome you home.

From the heart of the hall, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to another successful year at Thames High School. Our staff, our students, our parents, and our community. Together, you have continued to build on the legacy of a school that has served this region for over 140 years.

Congratulations to all our prize winners, and to every student who has given their best this year.

We are proud of you, and we believe in you. May you go forward with hope, with purpose, and with pride.



O TE KAUAEERANGA

YEAR 11 DISTINCTION AWARDS

Raelin Alvi Health

Bryce Chaffey Furniture

Mathematics w Statistics

Zara Chamberlain English

History

Mathematics

Science

Jemima Chewe English

Music

Science

Miya Costello Science

Devnarayan Don Physical Education

Science

Arleea Douglas Horticulture

Tyrah-lee Feilo-Eketone Art

Blaze Houghton Mechanical Engineering

Lily Hudson Fabric & Design

Science

Taylor Lamont Mathematics w Statistics

Te ao haka

Eli Lester English

Dimple Martin English

Mathematics

Mechanical Engineering

Physical Education

Frankie Merrett Art

English

Health

Physical Education

Gracie Miller Physical Education

Jonas Patman Furniture

Zaydee Prasad Music

Karamea Racey-Williams Art

Fabric & design

Mathematics w Statistics

Jake Robinson Furniture

Mathematics w Statistics

Takalia Turner Horticulture

Chevy Wilcox Food & Hospitality

Science

Sophie Whyte English

History

Science

YEAR 11 FIRST IN SUBJECT AWARDS

Jessica Atrill 1st in: English

Distinction in:

Yr 12 Chemistry

Digital Technologies

Diontay-Rain Corry

1st in: Furniture

Distinction in:

Food & Hospitality

Ngila Courtney

1st in: Art

Distinction in:

Geography

Ben Eady

1st Equal in Music

Jack McLaren

1st in: Mechanical

Engineering

Winner of the Jack Price trophy for Top Boy in Year 11 for Physical Education

Distinction in:

Geography

Tré Paki

1st in: Horticulture

Marilyn Simon Joseph

1st in: Food & Hospitality1st in: Health Science

Distinction in:

Geography

Science

Rupali Singh

1st in: Mathematics w

Statistics

Disitinction in: Drama

Dean Strother

1st in: Drama

Distinction in: Art

English

Mathematics

Science

Reana Taverner

1st in: Te Ao Haka

Distinction in:

Mathematics w Statistics

Trisha Twigley

Winner of the contribution to Troupe trophy

Distinction in: Drama

Ai Watanabe

1st in: Mathematics

Distinction in: Art

Te Ao Haka

THE FOLLOWING

YEAR 11 STUDENTS

HAVE ACHIEVED A

FIRST IN SUBJECT

AWARDS IN TWO

OR MORE SUBJECTS

IN 2025

Aly Mobberley

1st in: Fabric & Design1st in: Te Reo Māori

Winner of the Turoa-tuaiti trophy for Excellence in English by a Māori student

Distinction in:

Mathematics



O TE KAUARANGA

Kim Ju Taing

1st in: Digital Technologies
1st in: Physical Education
Winner of the Edwin Brown trophy for Top Girl in Year 11 Physical Education

Distinction in: English Geography
Level 2 Mathematics

Science**Eliza Carter**

1st in: Geography
1st in: History
1st Equal in: Music
1st in Science
Winner of the WH Baker cup for Top Student in Year 11
Winner of The 1955 pupils 75th Anniversary cup for Top Academic Performance in Year 11
Winner of the Ricoh Award for Scholastic Excellence in Year 11

YEAR 12 DISTINCTION AWARDS**Carla Chaffey**

Te Reo Māori
Scarlet Crook

English
Horticulture
Evelyn Darwall

Art
Health
Lexi Dinneen

Physical Education
Lian du Plessis

Physics
Tayo Elusanmi

Mechanical Engineering

Ffin Owen

Elevate
Ben Fitzgerald

English
Food & Hospitality

Tourism
Coby Franklin

Outdoor Education
Yukina Hosono

Mathematics w Statistics
Taiga Neufeld

Chemistry
History

Pyper Liddell

Horticulture
Music

Outdoor Education
Kyah Lyon

Physical Education
Shannara Smook

Art
English

Ashton Takiwa

Gateway
Neka Woolf

Classical Studies by Online Learning

Lucy Wong

Art
Visual Art Design

Yukako Yoshima

Mathematics
Mathematics w Statistics

YEAR 12 DISTINCTION AWARDS**Alisson Agudelo Posada**

1st equal in: Food & Hospitality

Distinction in:

Mathematics w Statistics
Tourism

Holly Bradley

1st in: Art

Distinction in:

English
Physical Education

Leah Comrie

1st Equal in: Drama
Distinction in:

Food Hospitality
Music

Romie Dargaville Rehua

1st in: Te Reo Māori
Distinction in:

Mathematics w Statistics
Visual Art Design

Lexi Dinneen

1st in: Health

Yukina Hosono

1st in: Music

Distinction in:
Level 2 Mathematics w Statistics

Charlie Lyon

1st in: Mechanical Engineering

Abbygail Patterson

1st in: Geography

Distinction: Mathematics w Statistics

Annie Perrett

1st in: Physical Education
Winner of the

Thames High School PE Trophy for Top Girl in Year 12 for Physical Education

Distinction in: English
Jack Robertson

1st Equal in: Drama

Tai Roberts

1st in: Horticulture

Lincoln Rodgers

1st in: Outdoor Education
Winner of the

Thames High School PE trophy for Top Boy in Year 12 Physical Education

Alison Tomsett

1st in: Visual Art Design
Distinction in: Biology

Geography

Winner of the Photolife Award
Anja Watling

1st in: Biology



THE FOLLOWING YEAR 12 STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED A FIRST IN TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS IN 2025

Simon darwall

1st in: Chemistry
1st in: Mathematics w Statistics
1st in: Physics
Distinction in: Mathematics

Joe Hayward

1st in: Gateway
1st in: Trades Academy
Distinction in: Mechanical Engineering

Brooklyn Jiang

1st in: Digital Technologies
Winner of the Corinthian Masonic Lodge prize for Public Speaking in Year 12
Distinction in:

Biology
Chemistry
Mathematics

Lorenzo Yamamoto

1st in: Biology
1st in: English
1st in: Level 3 Mathematics with Statistics & Modelling
Winner of the Thames High School SRE Poisson Statistics Cup for Top Year 13 Statistics Student
Distinction in:

Chemistry
Physics

Immanuel Huwald

1st in: Level 3 Chemistry
1st in: History
1st in: Level 3 Physics
1st in: Mathematics w Statistics by Online Learning
Distinction in: English
Winner of the James Bruce trophy for Top Student in Distance Learning
Winner of the Ricoh Award for Scholastic Excellence in Year 12
Winner of the Bowater Award for Creative Excellence in Science

Winner of the Romola m Catran Cup for the Most Valuable Senior Debator

Winner of the Poulgrain Cup for Top Academic Performance in Year 12

STUDENTS UNABLE TO ATTEND TONIGHT BUT STILL RECEIVING CERTIFICATES ARE:

Jaden Fulton

1st Equal in: Food & Hospitality

YEAR 13 DISTINCTION AWARDS

Troy Costello

Mechanical Engineering

Harris Elliot-Hogg

Music

Winner of the Baxters Interior Limited Cup for strong leadership and school values in the Music Department

Tahliah McCaskill

Biology

Geography by Online Learning
Mathematics w Statistics & Modelling

Emma Marr

Art

Chemistry

Mathematics w Calculus

Taylor Menzies

Elevate

Health

Brooke Muir

Geography

Karin Nogé

Winner of the Thames High School International Trophy

Chloe Paynter

Outdoor Education

Caileigh Poipoi

English

Health

Physical Education

Storm Ratima

Te Ao Haka

Pavelyn Rous

Biology

English

Psychology by Online Learning

Tamihana Timothy

Food & Hospitality

Shiloh Vila-Fountain

Gateway

Matthew Wilson

Elevate

Mechanical Engineering

William Wilson

Drama

Takuya Yamashita

Mathematics with Calculus

Ora Wiki

Winner of the Corinthian Masonic Lodge Prize for Public Speaking in Year 13

STUDENTS UNABLE TO ATTEND TONIGHT BUT STILL RECEIVING CERTIFICATES

ARE:

Ellie Johnston

Fabric & Design

Photography

Physical Education

YEAR 13 FIRST IN SUBJECT

Austin Court

1st in: Mechanical Engineering
Distinction in: Mathematics w Statistics & Modelling
Physics

Izzy Fitzsimons

1st in: Music
Winner of the Furth Cup for Performing Arts – Music

Akeira Houia

1st in: Te Ao Haka
Winner of the Walter Taipari Memorial Prize for contribution to Kapa Haka

Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong

1st in: Geography
Winner of the Boots 'n all Cup for Excellence in Geography

Tupaea Moanaroa-Te Kata

Winner of the Tupper Trophy for Senior Learning support (their perseverance, attitude and resilience are an inspiration to others)

Danny Topia

1st in: Gateway

THE FOLLOWING YEAR 13 STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED A FIRST IN SUBJECT AWARDS IN TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS IN 2025

Naomi Hinton

1st in: Art

1st in Drama

1st in: English

1st in: Psychology by Online Learning

Winner of the Furth Cup for Performing Arts – Drama

Winner of the Mackwell Ovation Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Performing Arts

Lexis Rohrlach

1st in: Health

1st in: Physical Education

Winner of the Kelly Cup for Top level 3 Health Student

Winner of the Ray Garrett Trophy for first in Physical Education Year 13

Ollie Stove

1st in: Outdoor Education

Winner of the Wintec Adventurer's Cup

Palarry Rous

1st in: Mathematics w Calculus

1st in: Photography

Winner of the

Thames High School SRE Euler Calculus Cup for Top Year 13 Calculus Student

Winner of the Boyce Cup for Top Science Student

Distinction in: Chemistry

Physics

RICHMOND MALLORY TRUST WRITING COMPETITION

1st **Eylul Tosun**

2nd **Jessica Atrill**

3rd **Pavelyn Rous**

SENIOR SERVICE AWARD

Senior Service awards recognise individuals who have made that extra effort across the school and/or community.

Austin Court

Joe Hayward

Ollie Stove

Ora Wiki

HOUSE LEADERS 2025

Abbyigail Patterson - ADAMS

LEXIS ROHLROCH - HOULT

TAYLOR MENZIES - DORRINGTON

Brook Muir - RUDMAN

HOUSE SHIELD WINNERS

Board of Trustees Student Representative – 2025

Palarry Rous

Head Boy

(the Lions Club of Thames Head Boy Trophy)

Harris Elliot-Hogg

Head Girl

(the Lioness Club of Thames Head Girl Trophy)

Izzy Fitzsimons





Congratulations!!
NAOMI HINTON
Dux for 2025

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaranga
Cakatia o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata
Kia kōrero o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata
Kia kōrero o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata

★ Furth Cup for Performing Arts -Drama
★ Mackwell Ovation Trophy For Outstanding Contribution to Performing Arts
Pak'N'Save Award
Business One Trophy 2025 For outstanding dedication & commitment by a student in any field

1st in Art ~ 1st in Drama ~ 1st in English ~ 1st in Psychology



Congratulations!!
PALARRY ROUS
Proxime Accessit to Dux for 2025

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaranga
Cakatia o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata
Kia kōrero o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata
Kia kōrero o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata

★ SRE Euler Calculus Cup for Top Year 13 Calculus Student
★ Boyce Cup for Top Science Student
University of Auckland Academic Potential Scholarship

1st in Mathematics with Calculus ~ 1st in Photography ~ Distinction in Chemistry Physics



Congratulations!!
FFIN OWEN

McConnell Cup Best All-Round Boy in Sport 2025

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaranga
Cakatia o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata
Kia kōrero o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata
Kia kōrero o te pihinga, kia hikoi rauhī te taumata



Congratulations!!
CAILEIGH POIPOI

AMP Cup for Greatest All Round Contribution to team
★ Milford Foundation Scholarship
★ Waikato University Ko Te Tangata Scholarship
Waikato University Accommodation Scholarship



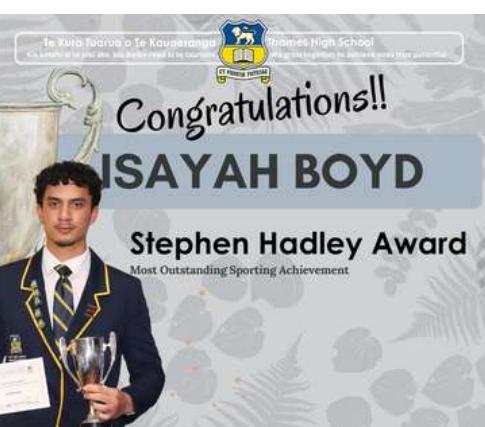
Congratulations!!
ELLIE JOHNSTON

Stephen Hadley Award Most Outstanding Sporting Achievement
Maureen Coakley Cup Best All-Round Girl in Sport 2025



Congratulations!!
IZZY FITZSIMONS

Bruce Belk Memorial Cup 2025 for outstanding academic & cultural success.



Congratulations!!
ISAYAH BOYD

Stephen Hadley Award Most Outstanding Sporting Achievement



Congratulations!!
ANNABELLE HUTCHINSON-WONG

Class of 1992 Leavers Cup For commitment to both service as a Student Leader, a Student Volunteer Army Ambassador & an organiser of school-wide events.



Congratulations!!
TAHLIAH MCCASKILL

★ Richmond Mallory Trust Scholarship



Congratulations!!
TAMIHANA TIMOTHY

Hetherington Cup for Citizenship Voted as most likely to be the best citizens from the group when they leave school.



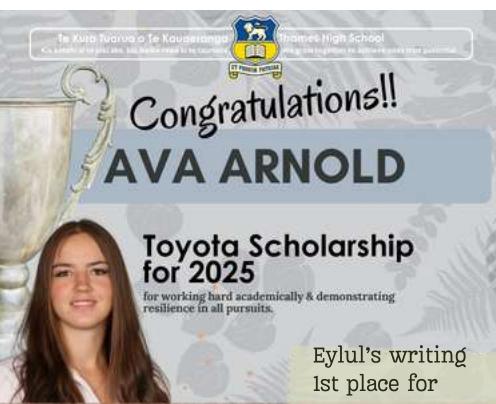
Congratulations!!
STORM RATIMA

Hetherington Cup for Citizenship Voted as most likely to be the best citizens from the group when they leave school.



Congratulations!!
PAVELYN ROUS

★ Richmond Mallory Trust Scholarship
★ Victoria University School Leaver Raukaraka Leadership Scholarship



Film: *The Iron Claw*
Author: Sean Durkin
Role: Doris Von Erich
Actor: Maura Tierney

Setting: Laundry room. A quiet morning after Mike's death. Alone at home, Doris is ironing Mike's shirt. Nearby a broken picture frame. The smell of warm cotton and dust filled the room this morning. I plugged in the iron as usual, without thinking. Mike's blue shirt, the one he wore on his last birthday, was still in the basket. I picked it up gently as if I could reach him. It smelled faintly of soap, of the house and something I can't describe.

Something lost. For a moment, it felt like it was holding his warmth. But it was empty. Entirely empty. I used to make pancakes almost every morning. Kevin liked them heavy and buttery. David didn't care much. Mike... Mike liked the fluffy ones. "They remind me of a time, when all of us were still together," he said one time. I never asked what he meant at the time. Maybe I didn't want to know or just didn't want to hear it. That morning, he sat in the kitchen, quiet, his eyes fixed on the window, like he was somewhere far away. For a moment, he looked like a little boy again to me. Fragile. I kept my back to him. My face was turned toward the stove, wiping the counter, folding the laundry. Doing everything but turning around to look at him again.

A mother is the heart of the home. That is what people say. But these hearts don't speak much. They only swallow their pain. Quietly. Until there is no room anymore.

There is a photo of us in the garden, Mike and me. I remember that day. Or at least I thought I did. Mike asked me once, "Do you remember that day?" I said yes without a doubt. I lied. What I remembered was just the photo, the frame, the smile frozen in place. The memory? It's gone. That smile in the picture isn't even real anymore. It is just more proof that we were trying.

Three days ago, the frame cracked. No one touched it. It just...broke. Or maybe we were all so silent that something in the house screamed for us. I tried to fix it. Carefully. But every time I touched it, the crack spread. I pressed on the glass and it cut my finger. Blood. It was still enough to remind me I'm alive. That day I felt something sharp inside me too. Not new, just deeper. I'm more used to it now. I should've thrown the photo frame away. But I didn't. It's still sitting there. Broken. Like me. Still here. Still standing. Because mothers don't fall. We just quietly crumble in places no one can see. I ironed the shirt anyway. The fabric warmed under my hands. It almost felt like I was reaching Mike. But I wasn't. And no matter how neatly I fold it...no matter how smooth I press it...I can't bring him back. So I folded it slowly. Placed it in the drawer. And closed the drawer. That's what mothers do. We keep going because we have to. Even when silence weighs more than grief. I didn't cry today. But I think I will. While I carry the weight of a folded silence. Maybe in a place when no one can see. Maybe when someone finally asks me, "How are you?" And I won't know how to answer.

Folded Silence
Eylul Tosun

In this piece I chose to explore the emotional weight and quiet resilience of Doris Von Erich, a mother from *The Iron Claw*, directed by Sean Durkin. I was drawn to her silence not as an absence, but more of an expression of deep emotional burden. Doris is someone who does a lot, but says little. Through my writing I wanted to look into the hidden burden of being a mother and the silent sacrifice in the family through her perspective. I wanted to write my writing shortly after Mike's death, because it is a breaking point for Doris. She has already experienced the loss of her eldest son and David and now witnesses Mike's death. There is grief that accumulates. Instead of showing this through her anger, I chose to focus on exhaustion. Doris has no energy left for rage, not even toward herself. In my view, this matches with the quiet strength her character represents in the film. I wrote this piece in past tense to show Doris's sense of looking back and processing things that she can no longer change. This gives room for regret and questioning. I tried my best to create an essential expression through symbolism. One of the most important symbols in this piece is the broken photo frame. This frame both refers to the scene in the film of Mike and Doris and also symbolises that the family unity is now irreparably broken. Another symbol is the act of ironing Mike's shirt. Doris continues her duties even after her son dies. Ironing the shirt helps her to feel a little closer to Mike. There is a contrast between the warmth of the shirt and Mike's absence. The physical warmth is still there but emotionally, everything is cold. In this part I wanted to clearly show the inner world of Doris stuck between love and desperation. My goal in this monologue was to draw a picture of Doris's pain. A pain that is told by her silence.

Jessica Atril
2nd place for
RICHMOND MALLORY TRUST WRITING
COMPETITION

Statement of intent: I am writing a creative piece about the experience of heading towards an inevitable future you don't want to come true. This scenario is based off of a scene in the book Skulduggery Pleasant: Dark Days and takes inspiration from the main character Valkyrie Cain's experience. The purpose of this piece of writing is to make the reader feel unease, dread and helplessness. Some language features I used were similes, metaphors, short sentences, repetition, alliteration, and rhyming.

The house was silent, yet the air was filled with an ancient murmur. Whispers of old lives radiated from the dilapidated furnishings. Desperate groans caused by my every movement sent shudders through walls cracked and peeled like dehydrated lips. Windows stood fractured and fissured with patterns as captivating and intricate as the spiderwebs that danced and hung from the ceiling like decorations. A slice of time lay captured in the open cabinets and set table, in preparation for an occasion that never had the chance to pass. The couches remembered where the father used to sprawl, where the dog took its daytime naps, where the mother read her book as she watched her toddler find its feet. Doors stood ajar like unfinished thoughts. This house didn't seem abandoned, merely waiting for the presence and care of an owner. I ventured further. Each step I took left imprints in the perfectly undisturbed blanket of dust carpeting the floor. I was heading for a door that I wasn't sure I wanted to open. Standing untouched by memories, bare of use and out of place. A misplaced note in the melody of a song. I reached out for the door handle. My hand froze centimetres away as I felt a warmth throbbing from the brushed copper. It wasn't a homey warmth, not as if you were sitting by a fire on an icy winter evening, but the heat of a fresh scrape, the friction of unwanted contact. Yet my hands were frigid and any warmth was better than none. The hinges shrieked with elation as a pathway previously untouched was now open and unfolding. I inhaled the musty mould and mildew and took a lungful of memories with me as I stepped over the threshold and into the room.

Tendrils of time swirled around me like smoke as the door shut behind me, plummeting the room into a void of darkness for a fraction of an instant until the space was illuminated by a seemingly sourceless shine. Doors covered every inch of the room, fitting and moulding together like a melted jigsaw puzzle. Some bent unnaturally into doughnuts, others disregarded proportions as if reflected in a funhouse mirror, and the most terrifying stretched far into the non-existent ceiling where even the sourceless illumination couldn't reach. Door handles protruded like open handshakes, endless acquaintances waiting for somebody to take their outstretched palm and invite them inside. I stepped backward, my hand outstretched behind me, trying to welcome the feel of the warm and familiar copper handle. Instead, it found no purchase as my foot caught a sinister hooked doorknob and I fell backwards. Before I knew what was happening, golden threads shot from the unending darkness above like a sparkling meteor shower and flooded through keyholes and cracks like a sunset-stained tide. My ankles and wrists were bound as the threads spread up my body like a disease. They whispered around my ears, vibrating as if being plucked like a harp, but instead of a calming melody, all I could hear was an amalgamation of noise as if every voice, every life, was being projected at the same time. In front of me, a door angrily slammed open as I became a passenger on the train of threads, forcing me in a direction my whole being screamed to resist. I pulled handle after handle, begging for any other path to take, but no door heard my cries. Perhaps they were placebos, nothing but illusions. Hollow promises that stood only to decorate the bare path of the future.

Up? Down? Where? Here? There? Familiar sky. Welcomed ground. A city. My city. People. My people. My family. My friends. Here.

Gone. The sky shattered before it fell, bleeding darkness and cracking the clouds that plummeted to earth in a doomsday meteor shower. Buildings morphed, collapsed inside themselves like dying stars. The earth snapped, cracked and bubbled. Folded, twisted, fused into a skeletal mess, peeled grotesquely like skin from bone. Guttural groans, cacophonous cries. The sun burned brighter, casting shadows that mutated into impossible angles, creating mountains, monsters, a plague that framed the dissolution of the world. Colours left. Monotony followed as the sun gave one last explosion of life before flickering in defeat. The laws that held the world together collapsed as in the singularity, surrounded by bent chaos, was where I stood. I was the singularity. I was the end. The last grains of time fell between my fingers as everything ceased to exist.



Eli Lester
3rd place for
RICHMOND MALLORY TRUST WRITING
COMPETITION

The floor is packed. The seats are filled. The energy in Spark Arena that night could have powered the city for years. Murmurs of anticipation fill the venue as fans wait for the coming show. After the electric set by the opening band, who happened to be local, the room was steadily waiting for any indication of the start. A sea of black and green jackets fills the space; every black jacket is adorned with red duct tape, and every green jacket is adorned with yellow. Everywhere I saw a symbol, a bold vertical line, a dash, and a forward slash, all enveloped in a circle, all the same bold red. It was a signal of their place in this community. Everyone was ready for a night they wouldn't forget.

The crowd is suddenly silent. Over the loudspeaker, three words are played. "What's your ETA". Everyone in the arena screams the same thing in unison. "Two minutes". The audience goes wild. The arena erupts into loud cheers that shake the building. Some grab at each other in pure excitement. Others jump in place as adrenaline rushes through their veins. A sea of phones rises above the crowd, awaiting the first notes to play. On time, the lights go out, and after a beat, a single F note plays, followed by the same note an octave higher, repeating in a steady rhythm. The crowd realises that the show is about to start. Twenty One Pilots were about to give the experience of a lifetime.

Video clips of vultures, dragons, and mysterious men in red cloaks are shown on large screens on either side of the stage. Red lights beam on the drumset as the drummer, Josh, appears from thin air, pummeling the drum heads with the force of two planets colliding, the crowd going berserk over his presence. Lyrics rang through the arena.

*"I Created This World
To feel some control
Destroy it if I want
So I sing Sahlo Folina
Sahlo Folina"*

The music breaks down as an Owl emerges from the darkness, soaring from a piano, launching itself into the air before landing on the stage floor. A mask covering all his face except for one pill-shaped hole in the middle. A big red multi-patterned stripe ripped down the grey fabric of the mask, from the temple to the neck. He struts around the stage. Taking in the cheers and praise from the audience. He picks up a microphone, its head glowing a dingy neon yellow, and starts to rap.

*"Earned my stripes
Three hundred tracks in my Adidas track jacket
Bless your ear holes while you react, acting
Gobsmacked won't hesitate*

To maybe overcompensate"

The crowd raps alongside the Owl. Hitting every word exactly in tandem with him. The man, after a while, walks to the barrier between him and the excited mob of fans. He climbs the railing and gets the mob to hold him above the ground by his feet, and continues his song. The fans go crazy, highly impressed by this dangerous stunt. The Owl then leaves the fans to return to the stage, where he settles at a piano. The next few songs go past like a whirlwind, the crowd only more energised. Then, after a performance of one of their older songs, The Owl walks closer to a camera, showing his eyes in the pill-shaped slit,

and then walks away. Two men suddenly come onstage and cover him with a large sheet. The man vanishes, and the lights go out with a thud. Fans anticipate what will happen next. Suddenly, the Owl appears in the rafters, and a spotlight shines upon it. The crowd goes ballistic, cheering about the magic they saw in front of their eyes. The Owl stands there for a moment before continuing his song, the crowd providing gang vocals to complement his emotional singing.

*"Whoa, oh-oh) and now I just sit in silence!
(Whoa, oh-oh) and now I just sit!
(Whoa, oh-oh) and now I just sit in silence!
(Whoa, oh-oh) and now I just sit in silence!
(Whoa, oh-oh) and now I just sit in silence!
(Whoa, oh-oh) and now I just sit!"*

At the sudden climax, the Owl removes his mask, revealing Tyler, the other mastermind behind the music. The crowd explodes with energy as he stands there. He then puts the mic back to his mouth, and with the crowd, sings the last sentimental words, the final word emphasised with an emotional screech of the lyric.

*"I have these thoughts, so often I ought
To replace that slot with what I once bought
Cause somebody stole my car radio
And now I just sit in silence"*

Instead of sitting in silence, the arena erupts into applause. Cheers and screams fill the large space, along with murmurs of what's coming next. Some in the crowd wipe tears from their eyes, the aftermath of a cathartic release of emotions during the song. After this, the set twists into an assortment of songs. Love songs and songs with deeper meanings whiz by. At the end of one of their biggest hits, The Owl sings a riff all too familiar, the crowd joining him all together.

*"Oh, woah, oh, oh-woah
Oh, woah, oh, oh-woah, oh
Can't change what you've done
Start fresh next semester"*

The Owl starts playing a gritty bass line as the drummer, Josh, hammers his floor toms, the sound ringing out like war drums through the arena. The crowd is hyping themselves up for an adrenaline-filled song; the crowd now has enough energy to power a small country for centuries. As lyrics appear on the large screen behind them, the Owl sings.

*"Stand up straight now (Ooh-oooh-oooh)
Can't break down (Ooh-oooh-oooh-oooh)
Graduate now (Ooh-oooh-oooh)
I don't wanna be here, I don't wanna be here"*

The crowd sings along, one third screaming the words, the next chanting in the background, with the last third doing both. The song turns to a recounting of a traumatic experience, slowing down, the crowd singing the emotional lyrics, some not understanding the weight of the words coming out of their mouth.

Eli Lester
3rd place for
RICHMOND MALLORY TRUST WRITING
COMPETITION

"I remember"

I remember certain things

What I was wearing

The yellow dashes in the street

I prayed those lights would take me home

Then I heard, 'Hey, kid, get out of the road! ''

After an electric second verse and chorus, the song slows down. The Owl has changed his Bass for a Ukulele, and he sings the sombre last words, chants the last "Oohs", the crowd exclaims with him, ending on the line they started with.

"Can't change what you've done

Start fresh next semester"

After this performance, come some great tracks; some crowd favourites, and a slurry of the deepest cuts they could pull, but everyone still knew them. As a bouncy piano riff starts playing, the crowd braces for the spectacle to come. Tyler and the crowd sing along, its merry tune lifting spirits, its cocky lyrics raising confidence throughout the arena. In the middle of the song, the Owl slows it down, improvising on his piano. The lights fade out, and he directs everyone to pull up their flashlights on their phone, and a million small stars fill the room. As he gives directions he has given before many times, the crowd executes his instructions perfectly.

"Mul-berry-street

So good to see you"

Every "Mul", the right side of the stadium lights up with a sea of stars, which disappears as the back of the stadium lights up at the word "Berry", and then the left side with "Street". When Tyler sings "So good to see you" the pit lights up, waving their arms, causing ripples through the vast amount of lights. The light show circles around, mesmerising the audience. Making them feel included. After the sixth round of lights, the Owl quickly tells everyone to raise their lights. The Arena fills not just with lights, but with community as the masses

sang the chorus with the Owl. Everyone waving their lights, creating a beautiful scene as the song rang out through the room.

"Get out of our way

We're moving sideways

Welcome to Mulberry Street, yeah

So move out of our way

We're pushing sideways

Keep sidewalk under your feet"

As the song ends and the stars quickly disappear, the crowd applauds the unifying experience of the community. The rest of the night flies by, filled with some of the band's most popular songs, some grungy, others clean-sounding. At the last song of the night, the Owl gets the audience in the pit to step back, revealing a large, candy-red circle. The duo bring their instruments into the circle, fans ecstatic about being so close to the band. When everything is set up, the crowd swarms around them like bees to a flower, and they start to play. The crowd explodes as they play their closer, singing every single lyric, hoping that this moment will last forever. As they get to the climax, they bring out two large drums. Each with the strange symbol on top. As they pass them to the crowd to hold up they bring out two sets of large drumsticks, hold them in the air, and hit the drums. As the thumps of the drums fill the arena, the crowd chants accompany the beats.

"La-la, la-la, la-da-da

La-la, la-la, la-da-da"

Red confetti falls from the roof, and fans all across the stadium try to catch it. And with the last drum hits and chants, the duo stand up straight. Arms raised. Successfully ending another show.

Successfully giving an unforgettable night. Before Tyler and Josh leave the stage, they leave their last refrain.

"We're Twenty One Pilots and so are you".

With curiosity, I walked outside home towards my yard. The morning sun gleamed through the tall coconut trees, brushing the yard with soft, golden rays. The yard breathed with the scent of damp soil, Mango blossoms, Jasmine and Hibiscus, heavenly.

Next to the little part of the yard where we grew yam and pumpkin. I saw my grandfather Olive skinned with light brown eyes, with a smile on his face. He stood there holding his iron spade with a wooden handle, the metal head sunk into the soil, his lungi (Lungi) a casual garment worn around the waist mostly by men in South India) slightly tucked, as if he was ready for another morning of work.

He walked confidently, shoulders back, face lifted, like he belonged to the land. He is

generous, funny, loving and helping. He is the kind of man people respect and love. Appu (grandfather) saw me. Good morning! He called out loud, warm-hearted and happily. It was 9:00am. It is the first weekend of my school holidays.

A special weekend. I was so excited to help him but as always, when I reached for the spade, he said "You are just a kid you'll get tired!" I whimpered. He never let me do any sort of heavy lifting, no matter how many times I asked. It was so annoying but, somehow caring.

I helped my grandfather harvest the fruits and spices we had watched grow over months. I plucked deep purple mulberries, my fingers stained with their juice. My brother and grandfather cut down a huge

jackfruit. Meanwhile, I picked up soft chikoo's from the ground. After, me and my grandmother carefully uncurled the vines of black pepper. The strong earthy aroma of the black pepper awakened my senses.

Later, we sat in the shade, me, Ammamma (grandmother) and Appu (grandfather). He talked endlessly, telling stories from when my mother and my aunt were young, teasing and laughing.

Hard Materials

We have had a fairly successful year in the Hard Materials and materials processing areas in the Technology Department this year.

Year 9 Materials Processing Technology have been given the task of making a Trebuchet and the challenge of making their Trebuchet throw a pingpong ball the furthest. They made a standard trebuchet design and needed to design and make the throwing mechanism.

Year 10 Materials Processing Technology have been making a range of projects and boxes which can house a blue tooth speaker unit.

Level 1 Furniture Making experimented with a range of materials and then used the results of this to design and make sculptures which showed their understanding of one of the Matriki stars. They then completed several BCITO standards and made a tool box from wood and other materials.

Level 2 and 3 Furniture Making completed BCITO standards and made cape cod chairs.

Level 1 Mechanics students have developed a range of engineering skills and used these to make a engineers parallel clamp and other projects.

Level 2 and 3 Mechanics students have made working compressed air engines, weather veins and a passive phone speaker. Some students have gone through the process of making Hungi Baskets for the school.

-HoD Hard Materials

Stephen Slaney

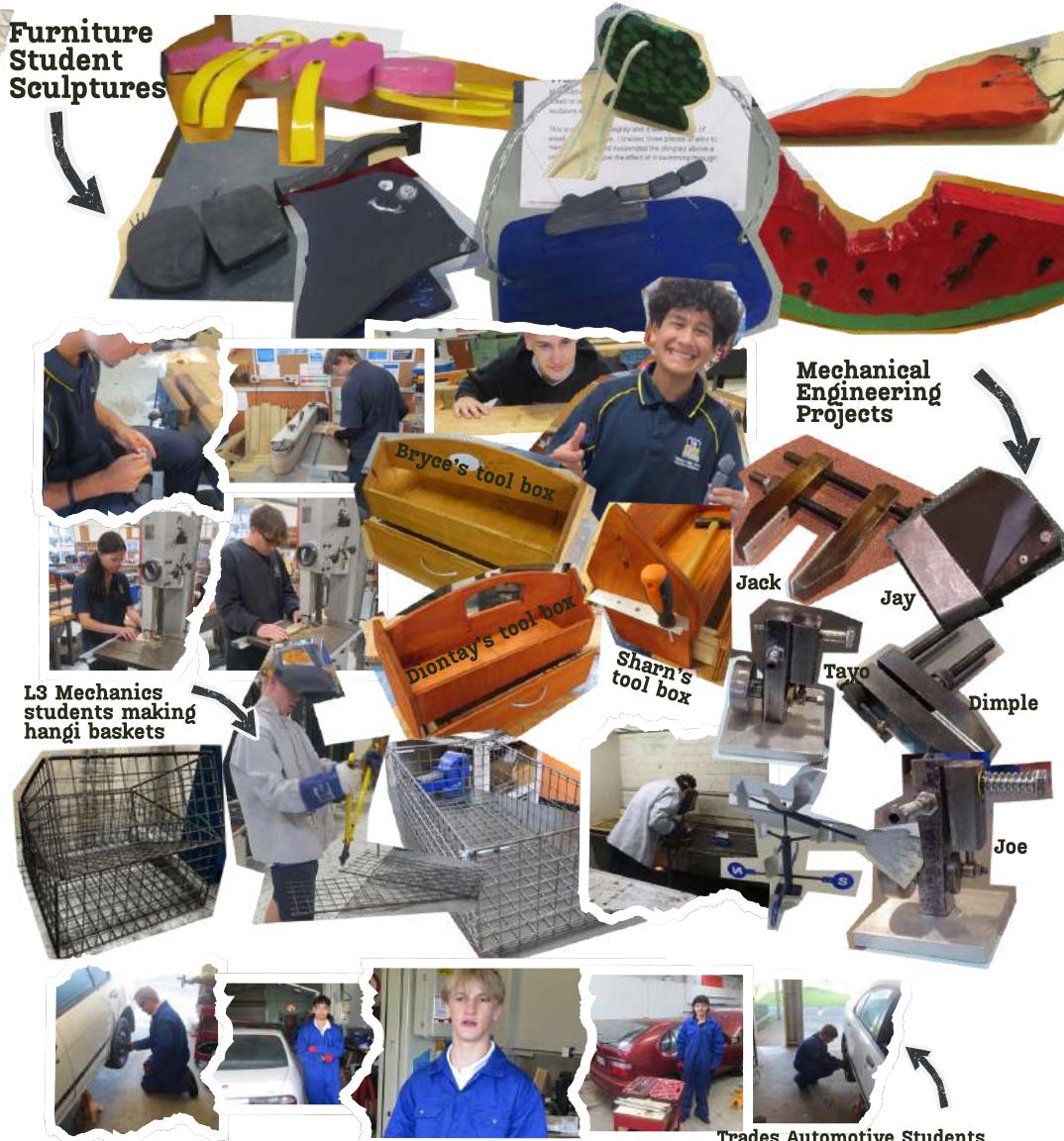
Hospitality Level 1 (HOS1)

Level 1 Hospitality ākonga have been busy this year—producing soups, sauces, cakes, scones, and sponges, and serving delicious hot finger food. Along the way, they've strengthened their understanding of food safety and safe knife-handling practices. Hospitality equips students with valuable life skills and transferable, work-ready skills they can apply in many future pathways.



Hospitality Level 2 / 3 (HOS2/3)

Our Hospitality 2/3 ākonga have been busy this year—producing delicious baked cakes, biscuits, slices, sponge, breads and muffins. They have served expertly made espresso coffees, cooked their own preserves, and prepared delicious gourmet sandwiches for customers. Students have catered for school events as well as individual requests, and achieved so much more!



Food, Fabric & Design

Fashion and Textile Design Level 1 (FAB1)

Get ready to be inspired by our Level 1 Fashion and Textile Design young designers. Throughout the year, ākonga have explored cultural and personal identity to create unique applied design techniques that personalise and elevate their garment designs. Fashion and Textile Design offers valuable life skills, guiding students to develop authentic design solutions for an individual, whānau, or their community while engaging with culture, identity, innovation, and sustainability. These valuable life skills strengthen and enrich any future pathway.



Education

Dancers pirouette toward their dreams

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The art of dance is something that helps Izzy Fitzsimons and Neka Woolf express what they feel. The Thames High students told *The Profile* it was a good way to channel their emotions.

Sixteen-year-old Neka said dance taught her strength and patience.

"I've always found it really hard to talk about anything to do with my feelings and emotions with people, so dance has always been my way of expressing those emotions without having to talk about them."

For Thames High head girl 17-year-old Izzy, she said she loved improvisation where she could just "make it up as you go along".

"I feel like it's such a human form of expression, like nothing can really match it. And it's like athleticism and like the art form."

It's what makes their recent news a significant milestone.

The dancers have been accepted into the New Zealand School of Dance and will head there in early 2026 to begin their courses.

Izzy, who has danced since she was four years old, said this time last year she wanted to do a Bachelor of Physics at University, but



Izzy Fitzsimons and Neka Woolf earn spots at the prestigious New Zealand School of Dance for 2026. INSET: Neka Woolf. RIGHT: Izzy Fitzsimons.

Photos: SUPPLIED

this year she realised she should "follow my passions while I can", she said.

The young dancer also sang and played the bass guitar: "I've always loved performing", she said.

She planned to major in contemporary dance, but will also take several ballet classes a week.

She was nervous to leave her

home in Thames but also grew up in Wellington so "it's kind of [like] going back home", she said.

One thing Izzy looked forward to learning in the course was choreography, which would be a "cool career path", and one choreographer she looked up to was Hofesh Shechter.

"I know especially in second and third year you do a lot of work on

that [choreography]."

According to the young dancer, who also taught at Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre (THDT): the dance world was small.

A familiar face and former THDT friend Liarah Anderson, who will be starting her second year at the NZ School of Dance, was set to be Izzy's new flatmate, she said. Another THDT friend,

Kolbie Fraser, will also study ballet at the school.

Year-12 student Neka, who was also part of the THDT family, said she started to dance as soon as she could from five years old.

"I was inspired by my older sister who also did dance, and by growing up around dancers and wanting nothing more than to be like them." The moment she found out she was accepted into the school to major in contemporary dance, she said: "I felt like there was a doorway opened that could give me a whole new life".

"The opportunity means everything to me. It's a chance to leave my hometown for a fresh start while doing something I love. The school of dance is also a great start to a life in performing arts like acting which I'm interested in."

Some of her dance goals and dreams were to possibly join a dance company and be able to travel around the world for dance, she said.

"I've always been obsessed with the ocean and music and being able [to help] people ever since I was small so hopefully some of my interests will cross paths one day."

Her advice for other students who wanted to chase their artistic dreams was to "keep pushing" and "take every opportunity they are given", she said.

"[Do] not let anyone tell them who they are or what they can't do with their talents."

Leaver's Dinner





Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Year 13
2025



Back Row: Harley Harris, Chloe Paynter, Pavelyn Rous, Calliegh Polpel, Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong, Troy Pascoe, Tamihana Timothy
4th Row: Takuya Yamashita, Hayden Cameron, Taylor Menzies, Kiva Clearwater, William Wilson, Pavelyn Rous, Shiloh Villa-Fountain, Ava Arnold
3rd Row: Danny Topic, Ollie Stove, Matthew Wilson, Daniel Hewlett, Tate Leathem, Brennan fitness, Luke Hollis, Jen Fletcher
2nd Row: Kene Rhind, Naomi Hirant, Tahilah McCaskill, Rattina Storn, Karin Noga, Lexis Rohrlich, Akelia Houli, Wilktorina Mita-Makai
Front Row: Eylei Tosun, Trey Costello, Taylor Speed, Izzy Fitzsimons, Harris Elliot-Hoag, Ora Wiki, Abbey Mobberey, Austin Court, Brooke Muir
Absent: Sienna Balfe, Isreal Black, Dylan Bisor, Laura Donald, Ollie Hamon, Elle Johnston, Saxon Knight, Rebekah Le Roux, Jay Majurey, Emma Mar, Tupaea Meanara-Te Kato, Zephyr Morrison, Marcus Sanchez, Boston Savage, Joshua Smith, Kyrahah Timothy-Cory

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Youth Girls Rugby
2025



Back Row: Ava McQuarters, Ruby Te Raki-Coleman, Nova Sawyer, Nevaeh Rameka, Jen Fletcher (Manager)
Front Row: Olivia Lamont, Uniquewa Reynolds-Kokiri, Gwen Kingi, Taylor Lamont, Alia Gupill
Absent: Dimple Martin, Lily McCarthy, Gracie Miller, Bella Bevan, Nevaeh Rameka

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

2025



Year 13 - Class of 2025

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Writers' Club
2025



Back Row: Izzy Rizzimons, Ora Wiki, Pavelyn Rous
Front Row: Eylei Tosun, Lexis Rohrlich, Jasmine Yorke (Teacher), Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong, Brooke Muir
Absent: Tahilah McCaskill

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Wai-Bop Athletics
2025



Back Row: Lorenzo Yamamoto, Jack McLaren, Austin Court
2nd Row: Luca Yamamoto, Lincoln Donaldson, Jason Frak, Archie Stove
Front Row: Maia Whitney, Walter Wiki, Isayah Boyd, Finn Owen, Alzara Taylor
Absent: Jaxon Inch, Elle Johnston, Olivia Kenny, Jessica Rendall, Sapphire Ross

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Volleyball - Senior Girls
2025



Back Row: Tyrah-Lee Feilo-Eketone, Sophie Whyte, Jemima Chewie
Front Row: Chevy Wilcox, Honoka Okawa, Miya Costello, Ayaka Tomatsu, Kim Ju Taing
Absent: Roelin Alvi, Jessica Afrill, O'Shynn Fowler-Reynolds, Dimple Martin, Zaydee Prasad, Lianna Marie Sanchez

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

TV Golf
2025



Back Row: Jep Donaldson, Isayah Boyd, Troy Costello, Austin Court
2nd Row: Tate Leathem, Christopher Kilian, Archie Stove, Matthew Wilson
Front Row: Ollie Stove, Lincoln Donaldson, Iwan Du Plessis, Daniel Burchell, Flin Owen
Absent: Harley Harris, Uly McCarthy, Gracie Miller, Bella Sevan, Annie Perrett, Millie Sawyer, Taj Shirinwastow

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

TV Squash
2025



Present: Troy Costello, Austin Court, Jep Donaldson
Absent: Ellie Johnston, Felix Miller

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

TV Badminton - Junior
2025



Back Row: Declan Fenlon, Blake McLaren, Toby Dryden, Tyahzae Fello-Eketone, Thamenen Kong, Darcy King, Oliver Louden
2nd Row: Nata Whinley, Olivia Lamont, Archie Stove, Laura Elliott, Flynn Tyson, Zack McNair, Rocky Tuohokaraina
Front Row: Kiera Nunn, Uniquewa Reynolds-Kokin, Simrat Kaur, Mala Whitney, Eva Ellis, Uly Donaldson, Gwen Kingi

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

TV Cross Country
2025



Back Row: Lorenzo Yamamoto, Blaze Houghton, Austin Court
2nd Row: Matthew Wilson, Cole Muir, Jack McLaren, Flin Owen
Front Row: Uly Donaldson, Luke De La Rive Box-Harison, Sharlegha Burton, Jai Bradley, Olivia Lamont
Absent: Tara Chamberlain, Ellie Johnston, Olivia Kenny, Jessica Kendall, Arwin Rosa, Millie Sawyer, Devon Smith, Amit Thayill

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

TV Athletics
2025



Back Row: Jai Bradley, Uly Donaldson, Mala Whitney, Gwen Kingi
2nd Row: Nata Whinley, Ora Miki, Connor Fletcher, Eva Christover, Lincoln Donaldson, Jason Prok, Alora Taylor
2nd Row: Jen Fletcher (Teacher), Mather Wili, Luca Yamamoto, Lorenzo Yamamoto, Matthew Wilson, Louis Elliott, Flin Owen, Tessie Watts (Staff)
Front Row: Troy Costello, Archie Stove, Jep Donaldson, Rocky Tuohokaraina, Austin Court, Juste McLean, Isayah Boyd
Absent: Miyko Costello, Ben Eddy, Coby-James Franklin, Jordyn Fraser, Sophia Hademis, Jason Ince, Ellie Johnston, Olivia Kenny, Bennett Kuhne, Kyrah Lyon, Uly McCarthy, Taylor Mennies, Gracie Miller, Uly Miller, Pyrus Pak, Amber Raymont, Bailey Richards, Sophie Ross, Millie Sawyer, Ceriella Schmidt, Taj Shirinwastow, Lewon Waite

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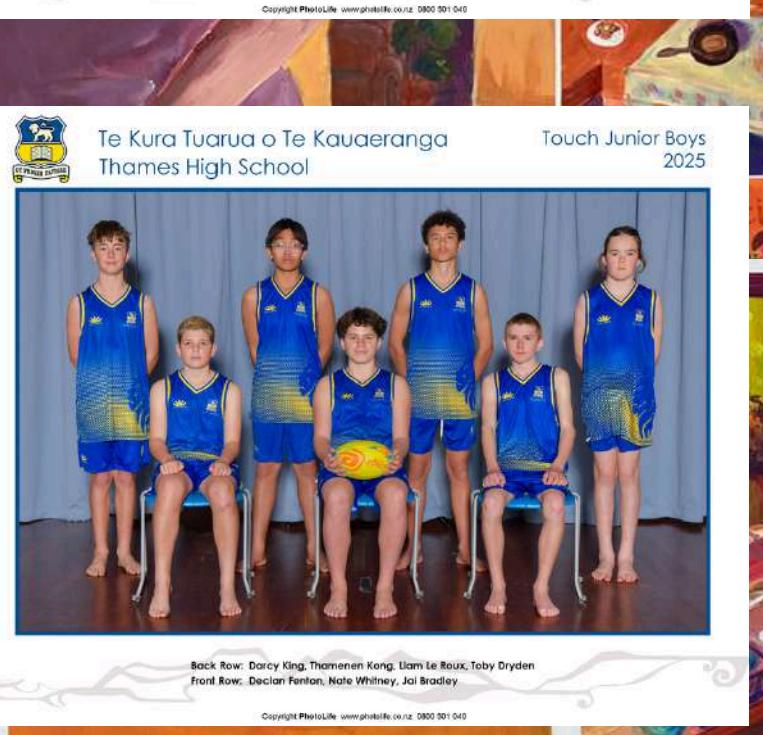
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Tutoring
2025



Back Row: Troy Pascoe, Kayla Speed, Naomi Hinton, Brooklyn Jiang, Shannara Smook
2nd Row: Izzy Fitzsimons, Eliza Carter, Kim Ju Taing, Tahilah McCaskill
Front Row: Eylel Tosun, Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong, Falany Rous, Pavelyn Rous, Ora Wildi

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Rugby Youth Boys U15
2025



Back Row: Michelle Mulholland (Manager), Tylohae Fello-Eketone, Nate Whitney, Cole Muir, Eli O'Neill, Kingston Morehu
2nd Row: Wileremu Eketone (Coach), Tyron Baker, Tyler Smith, Confez Hogan, Flynn Tyson, Toby Dryden, Brad Morehu (Coach)
Front Row: Hunter Bell, Te'o Paki, Max White, Archie Stove (Captain), Cason Fletcher, Takalua Turner, Rocky Tuahokaraina
Absent: Jake Sara, Devon Smith, Taitan Tapia, Sirius Wilcox

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Rugby Girls - Open Seniors
2025



Back Row: Takamo-Riria Waite, Alia Gupill, Calleigh Polpol, Jen Fletcher
Front Row: Taylor Lamont, Taylor Menzies, Nova Sawyer

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Rugby Youth Boys 7s
2025



Back Row: Rocky Tuahokaraina
2nd Row: Tyler Smith, Flynn Tyson, Kingston Morehu, Eli O'Neill, Brad Morehu
Front Row: Toby Dryden, Tyron Baker, Archie Stove, Max White, Nate Whitney

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Rugby 1st XV Tikapa
2025



Back Row: Pfin Owen, Isayah Boyd, Brennan fitness
Front Row: Harley Harris, Danny Tapia, Walter Wild
Absent: Royal Dean, Tate Leathem

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Piano Duo - Honoka & Ayaka
2025



Honoka Okawa, Ayaka Tomatsu

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Piano Duo - Eliza & Anna
2025



Eliza Carter, Anna Doble

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Netball Year 10 A
2025



Back Row: Laura Ellott
2nd Row: Rose Corbett (Coach), Anekaah Bennett, Payton De Thierry, Blaine Tukutaga (Manager)
Front Row: Savannah Corbett, Uniquawa Reynolds-Kokin, Ruby Te Raki-Coleman, Eva Ellis, Liliy Donaldson

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Netball Year 9A
2025



Back Row: Silver-Jay Thomas, Lucie Miller, Amica Morrison, Kelly Taurua (Coach)
Front Row: Nico Ralton, Alina Pleydell, Sapphire Taurua-Stoneham, Neave Merrett, Sapphire Ross

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Netball Open A
2025



Back Row: Abbey Mobbereley
2nd Row: Ora Wiki, Lawren Waite, Takaimo-Rita Waite, Chloe Paynter, Teresa Taurua (Coach)
Front Row: Holly Bradley, Ratima Storm, Calliegh Paipoi, Amber Rayment, Gwen Kingi

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Netball Junior Development
2025



Back Row: Abbey Mobbereley (Coach), Cleo Challis, Ora Wiki (Coach)
Front Row: Simrat Kaur, Jullianne Sem, Sharleigha Burton, Faria Fahim, Ava McQuarters
Absent: Olivia Baines, Lexie Lee-Ross, Mia McCaskill, Pearl Newton, Riley Richards

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Mountain Biking
2025



Back Row: Blaze Houghton
2nd Row: Blake McLaren, Luke De La Rive Box-Harison, Toby Dryden, Nate Whitney
Front Row: Silius Wilcox, Billy Bedson, Jack McLaren, Christopher Killian, Jai Bradley

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

International Students Term 3
2025



Back Row: Honoka Okawa, Kei Osone, Ikeyuki Haruma, Kato Hoin, Takuya Yamashita, Max Niendorf
2nd Row: Clive Nixon, Otoju Iiga, Martha Loschke, Paula Kaufmann, Emilia Dittffenpreis, Johanna Welker, Ayaka Tomatsu, Pauline Managh
Front Row: Sivham Khly, Karin Nage, Yukina Nomura, Al Watanabe, Yukako Yoshima, Carlotta Schmidt
Absent: Maho Ishikawa, Keita Nakagawa

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Junior Leaders
2025



Back Row: Gwen King, Isla Wenhold, Darcy King, Ava McQuarters, Lexi Thomas
2nd Row: Mala Whiney, Thamenen Kong, Joseph Dabie, Luca Yamamoto, Chloe Bergersen, Pearl McWatt
Front Row: Nico Rollan, Rocky Tuahakaraina, Troy Costello, Kayla Speed, Jessica Darwall

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

House Leaders
2025



Abbygail Patterson, Lexis Rohrlach, Taylor Menzies, Brooke Muir

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Hockey -11 Aside
2025



Back Row: Miya Costello, Cleo Challis, Roman Smith, Arabella Hall, Pauline Managh (Manager)
Front Row: Kiera Nunn, Laura Elliott, Chloe Bergersen, Troy Costello, Eliza Carter
Absent: Sharliegha Burton, Scarlet Crook, Ellie Johnston, Dimpie Martin, Bella Bevan, Annie Perrett, Jack Smith

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Head Students - Dream Team
2025



Back Row: Troy Costello, Harris Elliot-Hogg, Austin Court
Front Row: Abbey Moberley, Izzy Fitzsimons, Jen Fletcher, Ora Wiki, Kayla Speed

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

He Taringa Whakarongo - EARS
2025



Back Row: Naomi Hinton, Tyla Cullen, Shannara Smook, Sophie Whyte
Front Row: Abbygail Patterson, Millie Sawyer, Eliza Carter, Tahlah McCaskill, Neka Woolf

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Get2Go
2025



Back Row: Toby Dryden, Luca Yamamoto, Christopher Killian, Thamenen Kong
Front Row: Nate Whitney, Oliver Louden, Esther Bullock, Luke Da La Rive Box-Harrison, Billy Beaton

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Basketball - Junior Boys Gold
2025



Back Row: Luca Yamamoto, Lyle Owen-Woods, Tyler Smith
2nd Row: Kelly Carter (Manager), Graham Boston, Jason Prok, Phil Taylor (Coach)
Front Row: Devon Smith, Eli O'Neill, Max White, Koby Madden, Wyatt Doherty
Absent: Tyron Baker

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Basketball - Senior Boys
2025



Back Row: Cole Muir, Takalua Turner, Brandon Berger
Front Row: Blaze Houghton, Daniel Burchell, Carson Reicher, Hayden Cameron, Obe Fraser
Absent: Hunter O'Keefe

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Basketball - Junior Boys Blue & Green
2025



Back Row: Nathan Wanhill, Liam Le Roux, Shiloh Edwards
2nd Row: Byron Johnson, Tylahze Fello-Eketone, Jedi Taylor, Thamenen Kong
Front Row: Nikau Racey-Williams, Capstan Milner, Zack McNair, Kate Whitney, Phoenix Horton
Absent: Jaxon Inch, Flynn Paki

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Band 3 - Misfits
2025



Tamihana Timothy, Harris Elliot-Hogg

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Band 2 - Verstatile
2025



Present: Isla Wenhold, Yuzuki Nomura, Gianni Halawira, Arabella King
Absent: Chloe Booth, Yukina Hosono

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Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School

Band 1 - Worst Case Scenario
2025



Present: Eli Lester, Alzora Taylor, Chloe Bergersen
Absent: Sophia Hackma

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Thames High School

**10RWTS
2025**

Miakoda Burns	Ethan Coombes	Savannah Corbett	Jessica Danwall	Iwan Du Plessis	Faria Fahim
Simrat Kaur	Skylah Kelly	Olivia Lamont	Phoenix Patterson	Jason Prak	Reign Rapana
Julieanna Sem	Carbon Te Moananui	Lexi Thomas	Max White	Tim Williams	Mr Watson (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Shane Luke-Robinson, Tyler Smith.

Thames High School

**10HNEU
2025**

Mia Bornman	Cleo Challis	Wyatt Doherty	Lilly Donaldson	Halle Eamshaw	Aidan Fitzgerald	Jesse Fowles	Lucy Gage-Maddox	Arabella Hall
Devan Hotene	Exodus Kanara	Arabella King	Stevie Logan	Felix Milner	Uniquewa Reynolds-Kokiri	Jack Smith	Laurel Taylor	Fynn Tyson
Lauryn Welch-Paki	Lexie-Mae Wells	Maia Whitney	Georgia Williams	Isabelle Williams-Grason	Luca Yamamoto	Oscar Zhang	Mr Neufeld (Teacher/Kaitiaki)	
Absent: Sarayah O'Carroll, Eva-Leigh W.								



Thames High School A1 2025

UT PROSIM PATRIAE

Row 1: Miya Costello, Troy Costello, Darryl De Thierry, Harris Elliot-Hogg, Obelisk Fraser

Row 2: Jake Hollister, William Jensen, Taylor Lamont, Lukka McCulloch, Honoka Okawa

Row 3: Taaliyah Royal-Wilson, Ashton Takiwa, Reana Taverner, Lucy Wong, Mr Major (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Savannah Fitness, Shain Mita, Kaimanu Mita-Makiri.



Thames High School A2 2025

UT PROSIM PATRIAE

Row 1: Tyla Cullen, Jaden Fulton, Luke Hollis, Blaze Houghton, Lily Hudson

Row 2: Makayla Ladbrook, Liam Marshall, Cole Muir, Abbygail Patterson, Jake Robinson, Lianna Marie Sanchez

Row 3: Aryan Sharma, Lani Te kata, Trisha Twigley, Ai Watanabe, Ariana Welsh-Paki, William Wilson

Absent: Whaea Phillips (Teacher/Kaitiaki).

A3 2025

Greta Burba, Carla Chaffey, Reece Frisken, Aaron Graham, Ikejiri Haruma, Akeira Houia, Jake Hudson, Ollie Hunt, Nataira Keane, Tupaea Moanaroa-Te Kata, Logan Murphy, Whetu Murray-Habib, Musawenkosi Ndlovu, Annie Perrett, Lilly Robertson, Marcus Sanchez, Mr Harrison (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Scarlet Crook, Isabella McCulloch.

D1 2025

Jessica Atrill, Eliza Carter, Jemima Chewe, Coby-James Franklin, Shiloh Gilmor, Naomi Hinton, Otoju Iga, Sivhorn Khly, Emma Marr, Dimple Martin, Jack McLaren, Troy Pascoe, Zaydee Prasad, Kayla Speed, Kim Ju Taing, Amrit Thayyil, Chevy Wilcox, Takuya Yamashita, Mr Nand (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Rangi Emery-Thompson.



Thames High School

D2
2025

Kiva
ClearwaterLeah
ComrieCaedan
De ThierryArleea
DouglasDaniel
HewlettBrooklyn
JiangPyper
LiddellJodie
LoudenKarin
NogeRenee
OliverKaramaea
Racey-WilliamsJack
RobertsonRatima
StormRyan
WestNeka
WoolfYukako
YoshimaMrs Scoggins
(Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Victoria McDonald, M?ai Te Hau-Ellis.



Thames High School

D3
2025

Raelin
AlviHayden
CameronTyrah-Lee
Feilo-EketoneBen
FitzgeraldHarley
HarrisMaho
IshikawaJayme
Jamieson-ShawCameron
KilianTahliah
McCaskillTaylor
MenziesZeppelin
ParkinMarilyn
Simon JosephWilliam
SteelOllie
StoveMr Kumar
(Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Dylan Cameron.



Thames High School H1
2025

Students:

- Brandon Berger
- Isreal Black
- Diontay-Rain Corry
- Jep Donaldson
- O'Shynn Fowler-Reynolds
- Gabrielle Gage-Maddox
- Carolin Haendle
- Devon Hodson
- Rerenga Maxwell
- Aly Mobberley
- Tre' Paki
- Tai Roberts
- Lexis Rohrlach
- Taitan Topia
- Mr Prasad (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Liam Michael, Benjamin Moxsom, Lawron Waite, Takaimo-Rainia Waite.



Thames High School H2
2025

Students:

- Sienna Batie
- Hunter Bell
- Dylan Bloor
- Holly Bradley
- Daniel Burchell
- Austin Court
- Yukina Hosono
- Immanuel Huwald
- Kyah Lyon
- Jay Majurey
- Abbey-Bella Mobberley
- Taiga Neufeld
- Chloe Paynter
- Sasha Sao
- Shannara Smook
- Kyzaiah Timothy-Corry
- Anja Watling
- Matthew Wilson
- Gideon Windthorst
- Lorenzo Yamamoto
- Ms Ferguson (Teacher/Kaitiaki)

Absent: Lincoln Donaldson.



Thames High School

H3
2025



Absent: Carson Fletcher, Taj Shrivastav-Gardyne, Mr Baverstock (Teacher/Kaitiaki).



Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeanga Thames High School

Staff
2025



Back Row: Chloe Ferguson, Tessa Watts, Frances Crooymans, Cheryl Jordan, Donna Sawyer, Leanne Ardern
 4th Row: Tracey Reed, Christine Sutton, Rodney Milner, Caitlin Gros, Stephen Slaney, Kumar Anukar, Ravenesh Nand, Pauline Monagh
 3rd Row: Luke Derry, Clive Nixon, Jesse Watson, David Harrison, Michelle Tupper, Justina Lardner-Burke, Shane Major, Michael Kim
 2nd Row: Jennifer Bayliss, Juliet Emery, Diana Maher, Romel Gador, Rawinia McLean, Gabe Davis, Dianna Phillips, Jonah Caigoy
 Front Row: Nichola Voice, Jen Fletcher, Michelle Scoggins, Gareth Wright (Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal), Michael Hart (Tumuaki / Principal),
 Chris Ashforth (Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal), Daniel Neufeld, Jasmine Yorke, Ewan Grant-Mackie
 Absent: Abby Buskermolen, Karen Austen, Sharny Baker, Lisa Barnett, Sonya Brown, Xavier Brown, Alicia Costello, Kylie Finch, Ann Hoover, Ruth Howes, Lara Battson,
 Donna Mills, Sarah Moffitt, Sharen Stevenson, Pio Tai, Carolina Tornero Martos

Autographs



Yuki Zhang (Year 9)

Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Published by Michael Hart · November 16 at 10:15 AM ·

Update on Te Tiriti Changes in the Education Act

Recent law changes remove the requirement for school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. These changes were introduced late in the process and passed without public consultation.

I have written to the Minister expressing concerns and seeking an amendment to reverse the change. This is consistent with our board's strategic intent "To give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi".

We are concerned about:

- Loss of transparency in the legislative process
- Equity impacts for Māori learners and whānau
- Mixed messages between curriculum and governance
- The signal this sends about Te Tiriti obligations in education

Our commitment stands:

We will continue to give effect to Te Tiriti and uphold Te Reo Māori, mātauranga Māori, tikanga, and our partnership with mana whenua.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Michael Hart

Thames High School | Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeeranga

Toitū te
TIRITI
honour
the Treaty.

See insights and ads

Boost post

Thames Rugby & Sports Club and 644 others

86 comments 9 shares

Date.

Page.



Yuki Zhang (Year 9)

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