

## VISION STATEMENT

*Equip for Life  
Prepare for Eternity  
Whakarawe mā mataora  
Whakareri mā āke tonu atu*



Weeks: 8 - 9

Term 1 2025:  
17 Poutū-te-rangi (March)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Tārore and Her Story

See p2



Athletics Day

See p3



Scola Muffi Day

See p7



## THE MIGHTY SMALL SCHOOL'S SWIMMING SPORTS

Last Thursday our Year 3—8 students competed in our annual swimming sports competition, an event we hold with Te Poi, Wairere and Kuranui Schools. We do this to build up our numbers together and create some further competition for our students.

Our students did really well and were spurred on by our enthusiastic parents on the sideline. We appreciated everyone's involvement.



## NEW CLASSROOM DEVELOPMENT

This week we are pleased to announce that the last of the ranch sliders have now been fitted to our classrooms. For the last four weeks building work has been happening in the school as Rooms 1 and 2 had new external ranch sliders fitted and Room 3, the Senior class, had an internal slider fitted. This internal slider separates the main classroom from a small breakout space beside it where students work in small groups or can be withdrawn to work with an adult. Over the last weekend the painting happened around each of these new sliders bringing this project to completion.

The next stage of our upgrades is the fitting of new classroom carpet into Room 3. This is scheduled to take place in the coming school holidays.





## From the Desk of the Tumuaki

Last week was marred by the tragedy of a local Matamata College student whose life was ended prematurely as she crossed the railway line. I know this event has impacted many of our students and families. We have talked about this in our two older classes and talked about both rail and road safety too. It is always hard to make sense of tragedies but please know the offer still stands that if anyone needs any support to please contact the school.

### Our Local History

This term, as part of our heritage in our Kid on the Rock unit, we have been studying Aotearoa New Zealand history. Some of our local history is rich and steeped in Christian roots but unfortunately many do not know our stories. While our Year 1—3 students directly learn about some of these events we rarely get an opportunity to share about them as a community.

Today I want to share about the story of Tārore and the impact her life had on this area.

Many of you will have heard of Te Waharoa and what a legendary fighting chief he was. Te Waharoa lived for battle and thrived on it. He led Ngāti Hauā and was not only very strong and powerful, but was a shrewd man in the art of war. Ngāti Hauā thrived under his reign.

One of the things Te Waharoa had the foresight to see was the part the early missionaries were to play and what they could offer his tribe. He saw that with the missionaries came opportunities. While he was not a believer he knew there were going to be benefits in inviting the missionaries to come and base themselves within his people. He requested missionaries to come and live with them and Alfred and Charlotte Brown were assigned to them.

With missionaries such as the Browns came opportunities for trading and education for the children. Many learned to read and write, and several including Wiremu Tāmihana and Wiremu Ngākuku grew up under this and became powerful Christian chiefs who would have a tremendous impact on their people.

Peace was an unusual concept in the 1830's amongst Māori. War was a constant as land, resources and honour was fought over continually. Whenever a tribe was overwhelmed and lost they would seek utu, revenge. The common rule of battle was that whatever your enemy did to you must be repaid twice over. You can imagine from this how war just multiplied over time.

By the time Ngākuku was a chief he was promoting peace but not all his tribe believed in God or in peace as he did. Many were seeking war against Te Arawa in Rotorua and had prepared themselves for this. Seeing that war had become inevitable Ngākuku took his family and a contingent of others on a trek over the Kaimais to safety in Te Papa in Tauranga. As they travelled he had tied his copy of the Gospel of Luke, given to him by the Browns, around the neck of his eldest daughter, Tārore, to carry and keep in safe keeping for him. That night the group camped at a hut often used by travellers at the base of the Wairere Falls.



That night as they went to bed the leftover fire of their camp attracted the attention of a Ngāti Whakaue war party from Rotorua creeping through the bush. Before dawn, believing they had come by an enemy camp, the war party fell on the tent of an Englishman outside the hut, taking everything he owned. The noise of their ransacking and the sound of a barking dog alerted the rest of the party in the hut. Ngākuku could not wake Tārore, and only just escaped to higher ground with his younger child as the enemy rushed inside.

Up until sunrise the Rotorua warriors taunted Ngākuku who waited on a ridge above to save his daughter. The enemy though had killed her, took the book she was protecting so carefully and removed some of her body parts for sacrifice.

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Ngākuku carried the broken body of his daughter home that morning and buried her the next day. The tribe plotted revenge but Ngākuku would have nothing of it. Rebuking his people he said, "There lies my child; she has been murdered as a payment for your bad conduct. But do not rise up to obtain satisfaction for her. God will do that. Let this be the conclusion of the war with Rotorua. Let peace be now made. My heart is not sad for Tārore, but for you. You wished for teachers to come to you; they came, and now you are driving them away. You are weeping for my daughter, but I am weeping for you—for myself—for all of us. Perhaps this murder is a sign of God's anger for our sins. Turn to Him; believe, or you will all perish."



Meanwhile the chief of Ngāti Whakaue returned home wondering why the book Tārore had was so worth protecting. Much later he had the opportunity to have it read and interpreted for him. As this happened the love of Christ swept over him and with incredible remorse he changed and gave himself to God.

He knew he had to make things right with Ngākuku and so several years later he asked to visit him. Both chiefs were encouraged not to do so for fear of utu but they did it anyway. And Ngākuku did forgive. He could see he was a changed man and together they knelt and prayed together.

This is said to be the start of the peace movement which would sweep down the country and change tribes. And this very significant change all started in our backyard, with the love of God pouring out and changing the course of our countries people.

## Prayer Requests...

We appreciate your prayers for the school. Here's what's big on our minds at the moment:

- Please thank God for His provision, particularly with staff. An announcement over our Junior class will soon follow but pray that God will pave the way for people to move into place.
- Please pray for our property development. Particularly pray for the consenting process, that there will be no barriers to the approval of each step.
- Please pray the Ministry of Education will also now look favourably on our request to move into Years 9 and 10.
- And please pray for the growth, development and success of every student academically, physically, spiritually and in their wise emotional development throughout this year.
- Please pray for our Stations of the Cross to be God inspired and glorifying to Him.

# News - Kawepūrongo

## TEACHER ONLY DAYS

Please remember **this Friday is the first of our Teacher Only Days**. This is to enable our staff to have specific Ministry of Education training in the new Mathematics Curriculum. Our staff will team up with the staff from Hamilton SDA, Waipa and Southcity Christian Schools in Hamilton for the day. This is the first of four days of training over two years. The next one will also be this year and will be held on Friday the 9th of May.

Thank you for your support with this.



## CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ATHLETICS DAY

Now that swimming is over our PE focus has turned toward Athletics for the remainder of the term. With this is our build up to the Inter Christian School Athletics Day held at Porritt Stadium in Hamilton next **Wednesday the 26th of March**. This is always a big day and Matamata Christian School are the current holders of the Non-Championship trophy (the area most students compete in). We have held this title for the last two years.



This is an event where our Year 4—8 students compete against students from Southcity, Waipa, Paeroa, Lake Taupō and Hamilton Christian School's, Bethlehem Chapman College, and Hamilton and Rotorua SDA Schools in a purpose built athletics arena. They will compete in their age groups in sprints, long jump, and the cricket ball throw or shotput. The competition is fierce and we are most keen to hold onto the trophy!

We've received lots of parent support for the day. We need to move 79 students across to Hamilton and we are very grateful for all the offers of help, thank you so much.

Most people have already signed for permission for their children to go on trips such as this but if you do not want your child to attend please let their teacher know as soon as possible.

We are intending to leave school at 8:15AM and will be back by 3PM for the school buses.

## JUNIORS FIRTH TOWER TRIP

On **Thursday the 3rd of March** our two Junior classes (Miss Thomasen and Mrs Atkin's classes) will be having a local fieldtrip to Firth Tower. This is part of the work they have been doing in local Matamata history. This promises to be an exciting trip and students are very welcome to dress up in olden day attire to help get the most out of the day.

Further details of the trip and a request for transport will be coming home soon.

This trip has been done with previous Junior classes and we can really recommend it to you.



## YEAR 7/8 NORTHLAND CAMP

This term the school is studying Aotearoa New Zealand history. Included with this the junior school studies Matamata history which is steeped in Christian foundations. The middle school studies Waikato history, and the senior school looks in depth at early New Zealand history.



As part of their studies each class will be involved in fieldtrips.

The senior class, however, have a bi-annual camp up to Northland where some of New Zealand's earliest history took place. This four day trip has been organised for the **first week of Term 2, Tuesday the 29th of April—Friday the 2nd of March**.

This trip is about exploring the spaces and people we have been studying during Term 1. Our students get to walk in the footsteps of those who shaped the nation in the early times. We stay at Russell, New Zealand's first capital. There our students explore whaling, early trade and rule, Pompallier House, the oldest church in New Zealand with bullet holes in the side from the Land Wars, Hone Heke's flagstaff he had chopped down in defiance to the British, and hear tales of events that make your eyes bulge!

They also spend time at Waitangi exploring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reenact parts of the Treaty signing, explore people who impacted what New Zealand has become, visit the Stone Store and Kemp House at Kerikeri which is an old mission station and the oldest existing house in the country, and we go out to Marsden Cross where the Christian message was preached for the first time. There the same message is retold.

During our time we also go out sailing on a legendary sailing ship and visit the famous artist Hundertwasser's Museum and sites.

This is an action packed four days designed to be impactful and to help history come alive. Great memories are formed that will last a lifetime.

In the past Hamilton SDA School has joined us for this epic event but now both our schools have become too big so we have split. However, Whakatanē SDA School, with their six students, have asked us to take them so they can experience this too. This is a chance for our students to get to know another school from within our block of Christian schools.

We want parents to come and support us too and we've had great uptake already. We don't want anyone to miss out but we are restricted in numbers. If you want to come and haven't let us know yet please tell Mrs Marx, Mrs Fawcett or Mr Paterson immediately to indicate that you would like to come.

**This year's costs will be \$320 per student and \$285 for an adult.** This can be paid now or paid off in instalments over the year. Camps are one of the few school activities we charge for above attendance dues.



## News - Kawepūrongo

### HELPING RAISE FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY

The wider Matamata community have announced they are raising funds for a new playground for the Matamata community. The current one near the town's Netball courts is up for a major upgrade and \$100 000 is the target amount to make this happen.

Calling themselves Project Play the playground development is aimed at our current generation of children and the ones to follow. Because of this they are asking for all children in our community to be involved.

The plan is to hold a community Colour Fun Run on the **afternoon of this Friday the 21st of March** as a fundraising event. Pre-schoolers through to College students are being asked to participate and help raise money for this. Students run as a school (Matamata Christian School is our team). Our students can run on the day at 11AM.

The event is being run through an organisation called 'Go Raise It' who help raise money for the playground. Students are being asked to set up their own fundraising page through them and to get people to donate through this. This then means your children do not need to collect any money. The link to set this page up can be found at <https://projectplaycolourrun.raiseit.co.nz/>

Like all the other Matamata schools we are keen to support this. However, there is a catch for us in that this event is being run on the same day as our school's Teacher Only Day. This means to take part families will need to take their children to the event and supervise them. Because of our commitment to teacher development that day no school staff are available.

To be actively involved in the community we want to be part of this event so we are asking you to please get in behind it and support it.



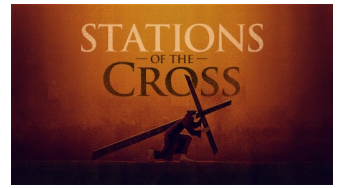
### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each year, as part of our preparations for Easter, we hold a Stations of the Cross event. This year we are aiming to have this on the evening of **Tuesday the 8th of April**.

Stations of the Cross is a contemplative event. We will set up stations for you and your family to move around at and engage in some of the events surrounding Jesus time leading up to what He did for us on the Cross.

We want families to be able to come, think and engage with this together. It is meant to be a relatively quiet experience, so to help with this, we will be closing off the school playground and play areas. This is to control the noise which has proven to be a distraction in the past. Please be prepared for this and keep your children with you as you engage in the stations.

You are still very welcome to gather, stay and chat with friends around the fire pit. Out of respect for others though can we please ask you not to let your children run off and play or be overly noisy.



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## Aotearoa New Zealand History's Great Northland Roadtrip

### Year 7 and 8's

Visit New Zealand's first capital

Walk in the footsteps of some who first shaped our nation

Take devotions where the Christian message was first preached

Experience the Waitangi Treaty Grounds

Enjoy tales of the past and the Land Wars

Sail on the R Tucker Thompson

**This is our nation    This is our heritage**

**TUESDAY THE 29th OF APRIL — FRIDAY THE 2nd OF MAY**





Free entry  
Fun for all  
ages!



Music

# PROJECT PLAY PRESENTS **COLOUR RUN**



Spot  
prizes



Date:  
21 March  
2025



**Time:** Starting from  
10:00am

**Location:** Matamata Domain

**Fundraise:** Individually and as a school  
via our GoRaiselt Platform



Register:



**LET'S BUILD A PLAYGROUND!**



# Do You Have Something We Need To Talk About?



## Matamata Christian School

### COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

#### COMMUNITY NOTE

Matamata Christian School values feedback and believes this is an important way for it to improve its performance. It believes complaints are a part of this and wishes to be able to resolve these in order to avoid anything standing in the way of it achieving its goals. Therefore anyone who may have a complaint about any part of the school life is encouraged to bring those complaints forward in a biblical manner. This means:

#### To resolve conflict -

"If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that 'every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses', as the scripture says."

– Matthew 18:15-16

#### In response to complaints -

"Remember this, my dear friends! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry."

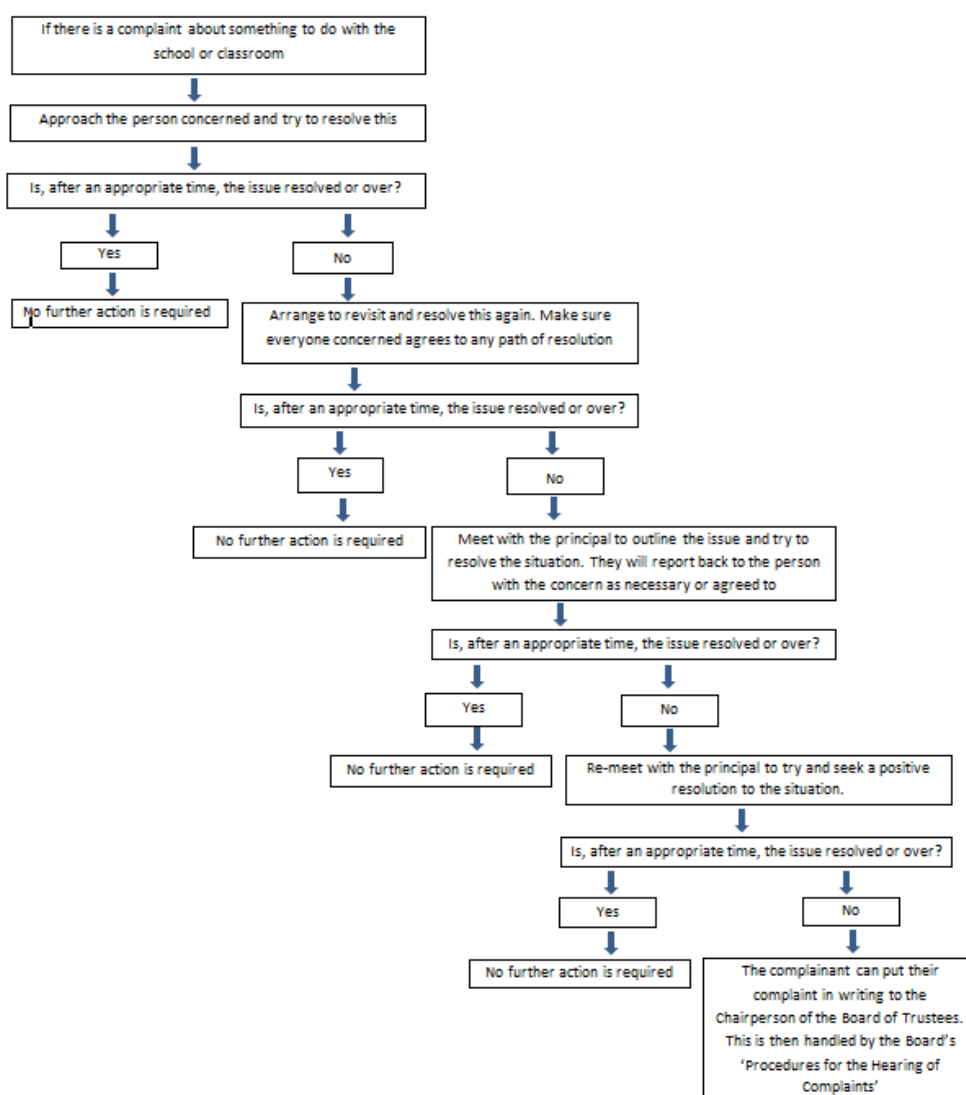
– James 1:19

"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

– Ephesians 4:32

Please remember that complaints can be embarrassing for people. It is important to respect a person's integrity by approaching them in confidence first to resolve this rather than sharing this with others. If a complaint is about wrongdoing between students at school please do not try to resolve this directly between other parents but get the classroom teacher to resolve this between families.

If a complaint is about a School Board issue or matter please use the School Board complaints procedures chart (available from school).





## Sports News - Kawepūrongo

### OUR NEW PE TEACHER

We are thrilled to announce that Ashley Stewart has been appointed as our new PE teacher starting in Term 2. Ash will be familiar to many as he is here most days running the Starfish After School programme.



Ash has a coaching degree and has been employed to work with all classes teaching PE one day per week, leading Sports Academy for us, and will coach a sport throughout the year.

We see PE and sport as an important part of our school programme. It is unusual for primary schools to have a specialist PE and specialist Music teacher but it helps give all of our students some unique opportunities and experiences. We've all seen what this has done for Music, including with the choir, so we look forward now to seeing what this will do for our children in PE and sport.

We are really pleased to have Ash join our teaching team.

### EPRO8 TRIALS

Epro8 trials have begun for our



Year 5—8 students. Epro8 is an engineering problem solving challenge where students are given a set time, a problem to solve and equipment to build with in a set time to create a working solution. They are in a team of four and are not allowed to communicate with anyone outside their team. Our school has been involved in this challenge for a number of years and achieved some great results.

During the trials students put their names forward to be considered and then get to work within a team to see how they do. Students get final selection based on their ability to work constructively with teammates, problem solve and think under pressure. Only four can be selected for Years 5—6 and then for 7—8. The teams selected will go on to compete against other teams in a few weeks time.



### SCOLA MUFTI DAY

Last week we celebrated our first Scola mufti day for the year. Scola is our World Vision sponsor child from Uganda the school supports as part of the outworking of our compassion and service core values we have in the school. Every term we have a mufti day to raise the money we need in order to support Scola.

Because we have been doing history this term last week our mufti day carried the theme of dressing from past decades. We had some amazing outfits and had a great time parading these during the day.

\$192.30 was raised and we want to thank everyone for their generosity. This makes a great difference in helping Scola.



# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY: TUESDAY 8TH APRIL ANYTIME BETWEEN 6—9PM @ MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



## Even More News - Kawepūrongo

### GIVING TO RESOURCES

Recently a number of people have been asking if either they or their business can contribute financially toward anything the school is specifically aiming to develop. This is an incredibly generous offer and we really appreciate it. Funding we receive is limited and rarely covers everything we do. It is only because of God and giving from others that the school has been able to provide the huge range of things it does.



This year we are dealing with growth, expanding existing programming, and introducing new programming too. Here are some of the strategic things we are trying to develop if anyone wants to help us build toward them:

- Because of considerable growth we are trying to increase the number of iPads we have for classroom use, particularly from Years 1—5. The price for schools is lower than normal market costs.
- This year we are introducing sewing to our Tech Arts programme at Years 7—8 that we are developing ourselves. Our students have not had this opportunity before. Sewing machines are for the long term and we hope will offer up further opportunities beyond Tech Arts.
- We want to expand what we do in robotics. So far we do coding and Lego robotics from Years 1—8 and we are looking to expand this in 2025.

If you are keen to help build any of these resources with us across the school (or in any other area) please come and see us. Even small contributions can help us increase what we put in front of our students.

### Dates for your Calendar

#### March

17th	Futsal Years 3—6
18th	Futsal Years 7—8
19th	Y3—8 Touch Rugby
19th	Future Ferns Netball
20th	Sports Academy
21st	Teacher Only Day
21st	Matamata Community Colour Run
21st	Miniball Years 3—6
21st	Tiny 20 Cricket
24th	Interschool Swimming (By Invitation)
24th	Futsal Years 3—6
25th	Futsal Years 7—8
26th	Inter Christian Schools Athletics
26th	Y3—8 Touch Rugby
26th	Future Ferns Netball
27th	Year 7 Vaccinations
27th	Sports Academy
28th	Miniball Years 3—6
31st	Volleyball Session for Years 4—8
31st	Futsal Years 3—6



## Church Community Notices

This column has been set up to support local church and Christian community events. If your church has an exciting event coming up they can advertise it here for free by sending details or advertising to [office@matamata.school.nz](mailto:office@matamata.school.nz)

Every Saturday - children/youth group and Cornerstone Bible study from 4pm followed by a shared dinner at 5pm. At Matamata Christian School, 91A Smith Street, Matamata

FONZ Youth Group

and

ROCK idZ

Parental supervision please if you have young children.

Some of our parents have got together and created a Parents Connect Group which meets twice per term in the school library or playground. This is an opportunity for parents to get together and enjoy a time of community together. The next get together is next week, **Friday the 11th of April, straight after school at the end of the term.** Come and enjoy afternoon tea, and chat and meet other parents and community members while the kids play. Pre-schoolers are very welcome.



**SUBWAY**

**PLAYBOOK**

**THE SUBWAY SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME**

**Available Fridays**

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