



SCUBA DIVING

My experience on scuba will always be unforgettable. I really enjoyed the aspects of diving very much, the skills I've learned, and the memories I made. One thing I didn't enjoy was the struggle of the heavy equipment and the weight of my own negative thoughts. But as I learned, you can't accomplish anything with weakness, so, I sucked it up. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me grow in confidence, especially in the water. Although I didn't leave with the certificate I was aiming for, it won't discourage me from expanding my knowledge. I want to go further with this learning and keep building myself up so that I can put it to good use in the future.

- **Maia Christie**



My scuba diving experience was absolutely fantastic and truly unforgettable. This trip challenged me in many ways - from socialising with new people to overcoming my fear of water and pushing myself to step out of my comfort zone. Initially, I thought that scuba diving might be intimidating and that I wouldn't enjoy it, but I was pleasantly surprised - everything about the experience exceeded my expectations.

The instructors and staff were incredibly welcoming, knowledgeable, and supportive, which made me feel safe and confident throughout the entire process. The people I met were friendly and fun, creating a positive and encouraging environment that made the whole experience even more enjoyable. One unique highlight was that we even cooked some of our own food, which was a fun activity. The location itself was breathtaking, and sharing meals together made the experience memorable.

Beyond just the activity itself, scuba diving allowed me to explore something completely new and discover joys I didn't anticipate. Learning the techniques, experiencing the underwater world, and connecting with marine life was both exhilarating and educational. It also gave me a sense of accomplishment and boosted my confidence in trying new things.

I would highly recommend this experience to anyone. It's an opportunity not just to learn a new skill, but also to grow personally, challenge yourself, and enjoy adventures you might never have imagined being so rewarding. Overall, my scuba experience was enriching, exciting, and truly memorable. I had an amazing time and would love to do it again.

- **Asia De Leon**



In March 2026, Mikayla Davies and Marley Thompson were chosen to attend a 6-day Kiwi Forever program run by Ngati Rangī. They worked with Ngati Rangī, DoC and visiting expert Cam Speedy to learn about pest behaviour, how to set and clean traps, how the waterways work, and how we can balance the environment with our needs. As a part of the experience two kiwi were released into the wild, and Mikayla was lucky enough to be one of the students selected to hold and release one of these taonga manu, however the biggest highlight of this program was bonding with the other students from other schools.

MEET OUR 2026 HEAD STUDENTS



MONET TIWSUWANBAVORN

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Kia ora koutou, My name is **Monet Tiwsuwanbavorn**, and I am incredibly proud to be one of your Head Students at Taumarunui High School for 2026. No amount of words can truly describe how excited I am to hold this leadership position.

My first two years of high school did not have the best start. I was a follower and unsure of who I was or what I wanted for myself. I avoided opportunities that pushed me outside my comfort zone, and I didn't always make the best choices. However, through growth and reflection, I began to realise my potential and the importance of stepping up. My journey is proof that change is possible. I hope my story encourages others to push through their struggles, step outside their comfort zones, and believe in their ability to grow. I want students to see that no matter where you start, you can achieve great things if you set your mind to it and stay determined.

As Head Student, I want to work alongside both staff and students to create a kura where everyone feels heard, valued, and encouraged to succeed. I believe that when we support one another and work together, we can achieve great things as a school community. I want to strengthen students' voice by listening to their ideas and representing them. I would also love to help organise more fun engaging events and activities that bring our kura together.

Most importantly, I want to inspire others not only through my words, but through my actions. I want to be someone you can approach, whether you need support, have an idea to share, or simply want someone to talk to. I strive to lead by example, and to help create a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong.

Alongside my leadership responsibilities, I have personal goals I am working towards. I aim to achieve a lot of NCEA credits with high results and continue to university to study Business. I am committed to developing new skills that will help me succeed both during my time at school and in the future.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity to serve as your Head Student, and I look forward to working alongside the other student leaders this year.



CODY BRYAN

DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Hello, my name is **Cody Bryan** and I'm a head student for 2026. If someone told me in year 9 that I would be deputy head-boy in a few years, I'd say they're lying. When I first started school, I was extremely anxious and did not know what to do with myself. But over the years, through trial and error and with the help of my teachers and peers, I gained the confidence to apply for this position. I'm incredibly grateful that I have been chosen for this. My goal as a student leader is to make sure the new students feel safe and welcome in our school. Being a good role model is super important to me because having good role models in the early years of high school can help you in almost every way.

Alongside these goals, I also have some personal goals. This year I want to achieve as much as I can academically and also work on developing valuable skills that will be needed for university. Again, I'm truly grateful to have been selected for this role and I will ensure that I live up to my goals and be a good leader.

As Deputy Head Boy in 2026, the legacy I hope to leave is one of positivity, unity, and leadership by example - ensuring every student feels valued, supported, and inspired throughout their journey at Taumarunui High School.

2026 Head Students:

Marley Thompson (Head Boy), Emily Owen (Head Girl),
Cody Bryan (Deputy Head Boy), Monet Tiwsuwanbavorn (Deputy Head Girl)

2026 Student Leaders:

Klaudia Te Awa-Thompson, Chris Sherson, Jane Melody,
Cayden Jonathan, Matisse Hosking, Janette Guillotel

2026 Year 12 Prefects:

Dakota Harris, Raiha Kereama, Sarah Malaefono, Zoe Ng,
Miami-Li Tahere, Georgia Tatham





In Term 1, students from Totara and Kauri advisories visited Cherry Grove to investigate the health of the Whanganui River. Their testing showed that the river is in excellent condition. The rocks had strong algae coverage, the pH level was a healthy 7, and students discovered a wide variety of river organisms - clear indicators of a thriving, balanced ecosystem. They also observed how clear water supports fish that rely on their eyesight to hunt, and learnt that species with larger eyes and noses have stronger senses, helping them survive in their environment. Back at school, students analysed their findings using median and mode to draw accurate conclusions about overall river health.

This experience concludes our mahi on ecosystems. The field trip provided an authentic, real-world opportunity to solidify and connect all their learning in a meaningful way. A huge thank you goes to Sarah Williams from Horizons, Rochelle Faire from Enviro schools, and Whaea Sheay for organising this learning experience that aligns beautifully with our Big Picture Learning design. All students represented our kura with pride. Rimu advisory will experience the same opportunity in the near future - watch this space.

On Wednesday 11th March, our Physical Education class headed out for the Taranaki Falls Walk as part of our learning about outdoor activities and safety. Throughout the walk, students identified potential risks and hazards that can occur in outdoor environments, such as uneven terrain, changing weather conditions, and track safety. They also discussed and applied strategies that can help minimise or eliminate these risks, including appropriate footwear, staying with the group, and being aware of surroundings. The students had a fantastic day enjoying the outdoors while putting their learning into practice. The weather was ideal for walking, overcast and not too hot, which made for very comfortable conditions on the track. Overall, it was a great opportunity for students to build their understanding of outdoor safety while experiencing one of our beautiful local walks.



UPCOMING DATES

20 April - First day of Term 2

23 April - Otago Uni Liason Visit

28 April - Waiouru War Museum Trip - Tui

29 April - Waiouru War Museum Trip - Whio

30 April - Waiouru War Museum Trip - Kereru

4 May - StudyLink Presentation

4-8 May - Dental Planet

5-6 May - Barista Course

1 & 7 May - Year 9 Peer Support Camp

11 May - Waiouru War Museum Trip - Totara

12 May - Waiouru War Museum Trip - Kauri

13 May - Waiouru War Museum Trip - Rimu

19-20 May - Bartending Course (non-alcoholic)

1 June - King's Birthday

8 June - Careers Expo

9 June - Photolife Class & Sports Photos

GRIP LEADERSHIP

On Tuesday 17 March, our Student Leader team travelled to Rotorua for the GRIP Leadership Conference, a day designed to inspire young leaders through the values of Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity, and People. Through practical workshops, we explored how to take greater responsibility within our school and strengthen our confidence as leaders.

We connected with students from a range of schools, sharing ideas and discussing common challenges. A key message that resonated with us was the importance of focusing on the positives when facing pressure or high expectations.

After the main session, we attended electives including Public Speaking, Creating Positive Friendships, and Developing New Initiatives. Splitting into groups allowed us to bring back a wider range of skills and ideas to benefit our school community.

The conference encouraged us to recognise both the challenges within our school and the personal challenges we face as leaders.

One message stood out:

"Most people choose what is easy, but leaders choose what is necessary."

We look forward to applying these lessons throughout the year to make a meaningful, positive impact.



REMINDER



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Sunday, April 5.

Clocks go back 1 hour at 3am

Kayaking Highlights – Term 1

During Term 1, students had an exciting and challenging time on the water as they developed their kayaking skills. Sessions focused on building strong foundations, beginning with effective paddle strokes to improve efficiency and confidence. As skills progressed, students learned how to safely enter and exit eddies, helping them understand river flow and positioning. Boat control was a key focus throughout the term, with students practising edging, turning, and maintaining balance in a variety of conditions. Many students also took on the challenge of learning to roll, showing great perseverance and determination as they worked toward this advanced skill. It was fantastic to see students grow in confidence, teamwork, and resilience while enjoying the outdoor environment. Term 1 kayaking was a great success, and we're proud of the progress everyone made on the water.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Taumarunui High School is taking part in the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) this year, with students forming their own companies, developing business ideas, and taking them to market. As part of this programme, students experience each stage of running a real business. On the 13th of March, five students and Mr Kuhn travelled to Hamilton to attend the YES Spark Tank event. At Spark Tank, students had the opportunity to meet with business mentors from a range of industries, discussing their ideas and receiving valuable feedback. Our students made full use of this experience, gaining insights that strengthened both their business concepts and their confidence. They now feel well prepared for the challenges ahead in their enterprise journey.



KCSS SWIM CHAMPS

A total of 44 swimmers entered and 38 competed, 5 of them from our school. Each of our swimmers gained 3 personal bests (improved times from our THS Swim Sports) and our school scored 5th out of the 6 schools attending (Piopio, Te Kuiti, Kaokaoroa, Putaruru, Otorohanga).

Thanks to the 2 dedicated parents assisting with timekeeping - Tracey Fife and Davinia Salle.

Thanks also to the 5 swimmers who worked together to manage themselves, had a great attitude and did not miss one race.

In the end, out of the 12 boys swimming, Clayton Fife came 5th, and of the 26 girls competing Charlotte Gibb came 5th, Julia Josiah 19th, Alylah Taumata 20th and Nichole Cooke 24th. This was in very strong competition.

YEAR LEVEL UPDATE // 11

This term we have warmly welcomed our Year 11 students into their classes, and they have made an excellent start to the year. They have been busy engaging in English, History, Reading, Writing, and Numeracy, while also heading out to their chosen subject classes. Many Year 11 students have also taken up the exciting opportunity to join the Trades Academy, which has been a fantastic addition to their learning pathways. It has been a positive and productive beginning to the year, and we look forward to seeing this momentum continue.

SPORTS NOTICES

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES

Kapa Haka | Mondays 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Jnr Netball Practices | Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Rugby Practices | Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Basketball | Wednesdays 3:30pm

Girls Basketball | Wednesdays 3:30pm

Soccer | Thursdays 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Badminton | Thursdays 3:30pm - 5:00pm

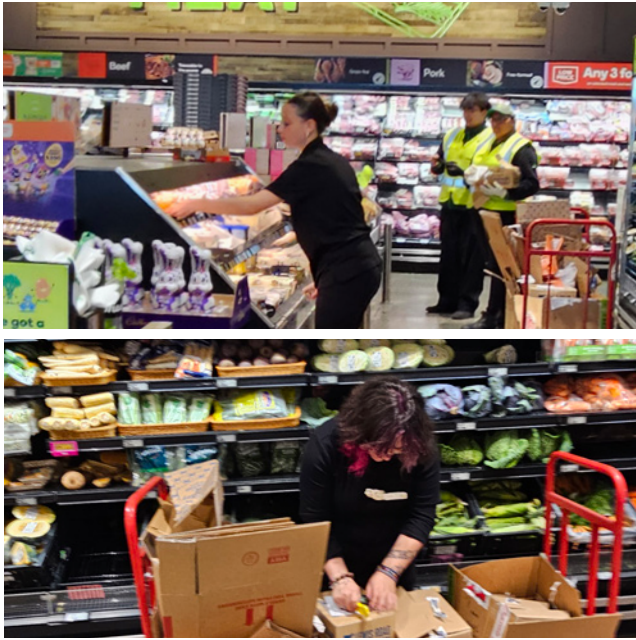
WHAT'S ON:

Active As Golf Academy | Every Monday

Maui Thai Rise Up | Every Monday

iSports | Every Friday

GATEWAY SEEDS PROGRAMME



The Seeds Program is a Gateway initiative designed to provide students with a combination of theoretical learning and practical workplace experience. The program begins with a one-day theory workshop, followed by five days of structured, in-store training.

Eight students commenced their practical placement at Woolworths Taupō South on Tuesday, 10 March. Over the course of five weeks, students will rotate through various departments within the store, gaining exposure to a range of retail operations. Their responsibilities include restocking shelves, preparing and packing online orders, and receiving and processing stock in the storeroom. Students may also have the opportunity to develop skills within specialist departments such as deli, bakery, and butchery.

The cohort made a positive start on their first day and feedback from Woolworths staff has been highly encouraging, reflecting the students' enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be awarded 22 NCEA Level 2 credits.

TONGARIRO RAFTING

On Tuesday 24 March, a group of our students took part in an exciting rafting trip with Tongariro River Rafting on the beautiful Tongariro River. The purpose of the day was to explore real-world examples of risk management and safety strategies in an outdoor adventure setting. Students observed how professional guides assess conditions, manage hazards, and keep participants safe on the water. It was a fantastic day out, and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience while gaining valuable insights into safety practices in action.



KEA CELEBRATIONS



The Kea class recently celebrated three significant birthdays last month, recognizing Jaydan Wise, Tayler Gailey, and Emma Jacobs, whose birthdays occurred within the same week. We were honoured to host several special guests for these celebrations, including Lisa Gailey, Bronwyn Jacobs, Christel Rautenbach, and Linda Peacock. Furthermore, we were particularly pleased by the presence of our principal, John Rautenbach, who joined us for these festivities. Thank you for all the support!
Sunil Lond.

