Kerikeri High School
Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

NEWSLETTER

Number 8 | Friday 14 August 2026

Hillary Outdoors

Year 12 and Year 10

Tū mai tōku maunga ko Pōkākā
E rere atu nei te awa o Wairoa
Riporipo tau ana ki te awa o ngā Rangatira
Tiro kau atu ki te pā o Kororipo
Raro nei i te mana o ngā tupuna
Ko Hongi, ko Rewa, ko Tāreha
Te marae ko Te Pou o Manakō
Te kura ko Te Kerikeri
Tīhewa mauri ora

Standing majestically is my mountain Pōkākā
Where the stream of Te Wairoa flows down
Entering into the river of chiefs
Swirling at the base of Kororipo Pā
The ancestral fortress of Ngāpuhi
Immortalised by Hongi, Rewa and Tāreha
Our marae is Te Pou o Manakō
Embraced by the school of Te Kerikeri
Behold, the essential life force

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message
Student Achievements
Staff Achievements
Out-of-Zone Enrolments
Option Selection for 2027
Year 12 Hillary Outdoors
Year 10 Hillary Outdoors
Senior Ball
SAVE Group
Kerikeri High School Student Librarians
Student Contact Information
School Policies
Next Board of Trustees Meeting – 9 September 2026
International Student Host Families
Upcoming Dates
Annual Young Artist Exhibition and Competition

Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou

The first three weeks of Term 3 have been significantly impacted by the wave of Influenza A that has swept through our community and, indeed, much of the country. Staff have been particularly hard hit, with nearly one-third of our teachers absent due to illness on one day last week alone. Both senior and junior students have also felt the effects, and a number of students and staff remain unwell. Fortunately, it feels as though we are now through the worst of it. Teacher absences are beginning to decline, and it is encouraging to see student attendance steadily improving.

As always, the public health advice remains clear: if you are unwell, please take the time you need to rest, recover, and avoid spreading illness to others.

Despite the challenges of the flu season, Term 3 has begun at a remarkable pace. Since the start of the term, we have held our Senior School Ball, our annual Science Fair, and supported Year 10 and Year 12 students on week-long experiences at the Hillary Outdoors Centre in Tongariro. We have also welcomed 85 new international students to Kerikeri High School, held two Whānau Feedback Evenings, hosted both our Senior Options Evening and our Transition to Tertiary Evening for Year 13 students and their whānau, and delivered the "Loves-Me-Not" programme to our Year 12 students in partnership with New Zealand Police. Last night we held our annual 'Jock Hodgson Memorial Speech Competition' Final, and we were proud to be so well supported by the Rotary Club of Kerikeri. We also had nine student teams competing in the Northland Mathex finals in Whangārei last night. Through this week we have had a group of students enjoying a week sailing aboard Lion New Zealand supported by the New Zealand Sailing Trust.

Sport continues to be a source of pride and connection for our school community. Our First XV fixture against Bay of Islands College was televised live on Sky TV, providing a wonderful showcase of school rugby and attracting strong local support. Our junior netball teams contested their club finals last week, and this afternoon it is the senior teams' turn, with our Premier team competing in the Premier Final. I know there will be plenty of enthusiastic support for all our players.

Of course, learning remains at the heart of everything we do. Our academic programme continues at full pace across the school, and Term 3 is always a particularly significant one for students in Years 11, 12 and 13. Final internal assessments are being completed, while preparation for external examinations is now well underway. The months ahead are critical, and the time invested now in planning, organisation, study and revision will pay significant dividends later in the year.

While NCEA remains our immediate focus, we are also paying close attention to the curriculum and qualification changes currently being developed nationally. The introduction of the New Zealand Certificate of Education (NZCE) in 2028 and the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education (NZACE) in 2029 will represent significant change for schools across the country. As these developments continue to take shape, there will undoubtedly be a range of views and perspectives. Regardless of any debate, our commitment is clear: we will focus on understanding the changes, preparing thoroughly, and ensuring we deliver the very best possible learning opportunities and pathways for every student at Kerikeri High School.

Finally, on Tuesday evening, the Rotary Club of Kerikeri awarded Miss Kate Crawford a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of her outstanding service and contribution over a long time to our school community, particularly through her leadership of environmental initiatives here at school. This is a highly respected honour and a fitting acknowledgement of the impact she has made over many years.

Congratulations, Miss Crawford. We are incredibly proud of you.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Mike Clent

Principal

Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Layla Bell** (Year 11) who competed at the New Zealand Secondary School Swimming Championships held in Auckland. She achieved four new Personal Bests in 50 Backstroke, 200 Freestyle, 200 Individual Medley and 50 Freestyle. She was placed 9th overall in the 16-year-old Girls' 200m Individual Medley, finishing among the Top 10 swimmers in New Zealand for her age group.

Congratulations to the Year Level winners from our school Speech Competitions who competed in the Rotary Speech Competition this week.

Year 7 **Isabelle Moir**: War's Effect on Children
Year 8 **Georgia Kitchingman**: Climate Change
Year 9 **Kiki Shimozono-Reid**: Jealousy
Year 10 **Felix Lawson**: Why Failing is the Path to Success
Year 11 **Tara Perry**: Succeeding at the Wrong Thing
Year 12 **Isaac Sharp**: Social Division
Year 13 **Craig Wilson**: Looking Up

Joint winners of the Jock Hodgson Memorial Trophy were **Kiki Shimozono-Reid** (Year 9) and **Tara Perry** (Year 11) (pictured below).

Thank you to the staff and students from the Hospitality who provided the meal for the Rotarians and guests before the Speech Competition.

Congratulations to the 70 students who participated in our School Impromptu Speech Competition. The following students who were placed in their year group competitions.

Junior Placings:
1st **Mira Hofer** (Year 7)
2nd **Jessie Robus** (Year 7)
3rd **Kira UnKauf** (Year 7)

Intermediate Placings:
1st equal **Lyreena Heta** (Year 9)
1st equal **Winter Oszacja** (Year 9)
2nd **Jasmine Blackwood** (Year 9)
3rd **Lexi Emelee** (Year 9)

Senior Placings:
1st **Isabelle Cannon** (Year 13)
2nd **Kate Graham** (Year 12)
3rd **Maddison Weight** (Year 12)

Thank you to **Ms Douglas** for organising, and to all the judges that helped out.

Staff Achievements

Congratulations to **Miss Kate Crawford** who was honoured by the Rotary Club of Kerikeri with a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of her many years of service to the Kerikeri High School SAVE Group (Saving All Valuable Environments) and to the wider community.

Kate is pictured with Rotary District Governor Mr Mitchell Brown.

Out-of-Zone Enrolments

Out-of-zone enrolments for 2027 are now open. Information and the online Out-of-Zone enrolment form can be found on the Enrolment page of our School website.

Applications for 2027 close on **2 September 2026** and the ballot will be held on **9 September 2026**.

Option Selection for 2027

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are required to make their subject choices between Monday 17 August and Monday 31 August. Option choices will be made online using a web page portal. Access to option choices will be available through a personal password, which will be sent to each student's school email address.

Due to changing curriculum requirements for Years 9 and 10 in 2027, option selection processes for students currently in Years 8 and 9, will take place early in Term 4. We will be in touch with more information once it is available.

Year 12 Hillary Outdoors

During the first week of the holidays, 29 Year 12 students, accompanied by **Ms Davina Derecourt**, **Mr Sean Bristow** and **Mrs Jodie Scott**, undertook a five-day guided outdoor education programme at the Hillary Outdoors Centre in Tongariro National Park. Located within New Zealand's oldest national park and surrounded by a unique volcanic landscape, the programme provided students with opportunities to challenge themselves while exploring one of the country's most iconic outdoor environments.

Throughout the week, students participated in a range of activities including abseiling, rock climbing, overnight group camps, bush experiences, and alpine adventures. The activities were designed to develop outdoor skills, build resilience, strengthen relationships through teamwork, and encourage students to step outside their comfort zones with the guidance and support of experienced Hillary Outdoors instructors.

A particular highlight for many students was the alpine day, which saw the group venture up onto the mountain and into the snow. The day concluded with plenty of laughter as students took part in an epic snowball battle and snowman-

building competition. The trip provided an outstanding opportunity for personal growth, connection, and the creation of lasting memories.

Year 10 Hillary Outdoors

He mihi maioha tēnei ki ngā maunga e tū kaha nei hei tūara ki te kaupapa nei a Hillary Outdoors OPC mā ngā ākonga Tau 10 – Ko Pihanga, ko Ruapehu, ko Tongariro.

A group of 29 Year 10 ākonga (students) had the incredible opportunity to attend Hillary Outdoors in Tongariro National Park. The ākonga thoroughly enjoyed their time away, taking part in a range of exciting outdoor activities, challenging themselves, and creating plenty of lasting memories. It was fantastic to see them supporting and encouraging one another, building stronger friendships, and embracing new challenges with enthusiasm.

"Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei" — "Seek the treasure you value most dearly; if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain"

Thank you to **Matua Jordan Westerlund**, **Whaea Tania Heihei** and **Mrs Jodie Scott** for their awhina and support.

Senior Ball

Our "Last Light" School Ball was held on Saturday 25 July, with more than 500 students from Years 11 to 13 attending. We would like to extend a massive thank you to all the staff who generously gave up their personal time to supervise and support our senior students throughout the event.

A special thank you goes to Deputy Principals **Mrs Dana Boisen** and **Mrs Renae Rakena**, and our Year 13 Dean, **Mr Paul Boardman**, together with Year 12 Dean, **Ms Davina Derecourt**, and Year 11 Dean, **Mr Seth Brown**, who all worked closely with the Student Ball Committee.

We would also like to acknowledge the PTA and all the parents who donated food or volunteered their time on the night to provide the amazing supper enjoyed by everyone.

A huge thank you goes to Tents and Events https://www.keripartyhire.co.nz/ for their countless hours of hard work and support. Their creativity, expertise, and incredible props, combined with the students' vision and designs, transformed our school venue into a magical and unforgettable setting.

Finally, thank you to DJ Tamati Webb, Brendan Kay from Langwoods Photography, and Smile Photobooth for all their expertise on the night.

SAVE Groups

SAVE Interact members were asked to assist with the Toiwaka Turner Centre rebranding workshop in the holidays. A massive thank you to the students who took time out to do this. Pictured are Year 12 students **Leah Shrubshall** and **Julia Roosendaal**.

Senior SAVE students recently met with Anouk Van Donzel from CBEC to discuss clothing recycling solutions in Northland and gave feedback about what they would like to see in local opportunity shops.

Kerikeri High School Student Librarians

Our student librarians are an integral part of our school library. As enthusiastic readers and positive role models, they help foster a culture of reading throughout the school while demonstrating responsibility, commitment, and leadership in their role.

Student Contact Information

To ensure our information is up to date, please notify us if there are any changes to your child's contact information, including their emergency contact who is authorised to collect them in the event of a school closure.

Parents and Caregivers can check their child/ren's information by using their Parent/Caregiver Signin to FACTS.

If you have not yet signed in to FACTS, please email FACTS@kerikerihigh.ac.nz for instructions.

School Policies

All our school policies are publicly available and can be accessed here: Kerikeri High School Policies

Our Community Username is: kerikerihigh
And our Community Password is: waka

Topics that are being nationally reviewed in Term 3 are:
- Kura Community Engagement Policy
- Inclusive Kura Culture
- Enrolment
- Student Attendance
- Student Uniform
- Concerns and Complaints Policy

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 5.30pm on 9 September 2026, in the Boardroom.

International Student Host Families

Thank you to all our existing host families.
If you are interested in becoming a host family and join our fun and caring host family community, please contact us.

International Students are happy to share their culture with your family. Lifelong friendships are made with students and their families from all over the world. International students that are attracted to Kerikeri are like us; active, busy and enjoy an outdoor lifestyle.

Remuneration is provided and all applicants are Police vetted.

If you would like to receive more information, please contact our **International Department on 09 407 0163 or email** accommodation@kerikerihigh.ac.nz

Please view our International Department promotional videos on our School website.

Upcoming Dates

Teacher Only Day – 21 August
Out-of-Zone Ballot Closes – 2 September
Out-of-Zone Ballot – 9 September
Board Meeting – 9 September
New Parents & Whānau Evening – 24 September
Student Trustee Election – 24 September
End of Term 3 – 25 September