



TE PAEPAE O AOTEA

Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata



King Edward Park receives Green Flag Award

Te Paepae o Aotea is proud to announce that King Edward Park achieved a great report and received a Green Flag award for another year. Te Paepae o Aotea students working hard in the park contributed to this achievement! What does a Green Flag Award mean - A Global Honour for Parks.

The Green Flag Award is a prestigious recognition for parks and green spaces that meet high standards of quality and sustainability. There are 10 sections to the Award: A welcoming place; Healthy; Safe and Secure; Well maintained and clean; Environmental management; Biodiversity; Landscape and Heritage; Community involvement; Marketing & Communication; Management which then branch out to other criteria. 2,500 Parks worldwide and 29 Nationally entered. Te Paepae o Aotea alongside "Friends of the Park" and King Edward park staff helped attain this remarkable achievement.



Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

What an exciting, challenging, fun, different, new and complex year it has been for the foundation year of Te Paepae o Aotea.

Our staff have been amazing. They have been brave and courageous throughout the journey and I applaud them all. All our staff have made this year fun, exciting and fruitful. They have been on an enormous learning journey together and have all contributed so much to our school. Each one have been wonderful role models for our students. I could not have wished for a better senior leadership team to go on this crazy journey with - you have been inspiring for our students and staff and your dedication to our school and the young people in our community is second to none.

Throughout this year, we have done our utmost to align everything we do to our school name, whakataukī and values. We were gifted these from Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust and it is our responsibility to uphold them. This has meant we have not always taken the easy path, planning for prizegivings this year saw us make our trophies from salvaged wood from the demolition of the Hāwera High School hall and Science classrooms instead of buying trophies. These trophies took significant time to create but we now have trophies that reflect our school identity and the wairua of the people within our school and community. Identity has been a huge focus for us as we strive to create a culture of inclusiveness where everyone in our community belongs.

This year we have so many achievements to be proud of both in the classroom and in extra curricular activities. We have enjoyed celebrating the success of all of our students and we look forward to seeing the progress that each one of our students makes in the future.

Within the classroom this year, our students have been dedicated to their learning and have made great progress. The majority of our senior students have gained their NCEA qualifications and our junior students have made great progress across the curriculum. Our junior students have sat the Common Assessment Activity (CAA) this year and our new literacy and numeracy learning programmes prepared them well.

We had four head students working across the academic, community, cultural and sports portfolios: Ebony Kalin, Hannah Coogan, Shaneya Patel and Tessa Leatherby. I have enjoyed working alongside these students. They epitomise our school values and whakataukī.

The challenge for us all this year has been to be courageous throughout this time of change and new beginnings. My hope for our wonderful students is that they continue to be courageous in all they do. As Nelson Mandela put it, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." At prizegivings our students were reminded to face life and its challenges head on with humility and grace, knowing that with the support of others you can be courageous and you will be able to face whatever life sends your way.

I would like to thank our parents, whānau and wider community who have supported, guided and nurtured our wonderful young people throughout the year. Our students have been resilient and inspiring through the change and can certainly teach us all about having a growth mindset. I am so proud of our students and what they have achieved in 2023.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school. We hope you have a wonderful summer and holiday season. We are looking forward to 2024 and the amazing opportunities it will present our young people.

Ngā mihi
Rachel Williams
Tumuaki



Student Achievements

South Taranaki Youth Citizen Award
Ebony Kalin

AFS NZ Education Trust Scholarship
Emma Hobman

Ohangai Centennial Teaching Scholarship
Rebecca Smyth & Hayley Gavin

Taranaki U16 Boys Youth Touch Nationals Team
Quincy Julian, Rayden Julian, Koha Tamou and Traiyvaan Nui

2023 Taranaki Sports Award nominations
Sha-meel Chengan - Coach
Peyton Nelson - Junior Sports Woman
Sofia Va'aelua - Junior Sports Team

2023 Lions Peace Posters
1st Lily Veevers, 2nd Chelsey Swart,
3rd Ryleigh Smith & 4th Kaylee Bublitz

2023 Junior Lions Speechmaker Competition
2nd Place - Tamamihia Edwards

TSSSA Junior Futsal
Social Grade 1st Place - Te Paepae o Aotea
Social Grade 2nd Place - Te Paepae o Aotea

Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards
Secondary School - Short Story
Sheya Patel - 2nd Place & Commended
Lauren Kalin - 3rd Place
Secondary School - Poetry
Bethany Gyde - 3rd Place

Regional Yes Awards
Overall Regional Runner Up for the Plank
Regional Marketing & Retail Award
National Runner up winner for Sales & Marketing



Te Paepae o Aotea Junior Volleyball team comes fourth at National Tournament

Our Junior Volleyball Boys team participated in the Junior Volleyball Nationals in Papakura recently. Te Paepae o Aotea competed in Division 3. Our team won five games and lost four, placing them fourth overall in Division 3. This is an amazing effort from our Junior Boys and we're extremely proud of them.

Lost 1-2 Auckland Grammar Boys; Won 2-1 Kerikeri HS Boys; Won 2-1 Auckland Seventh-day Adventist HS; Won 2-1 Takapuna Grammar Boys; Won 2-1 Tokoroa HS Boys B; Lost 1-2 Ormiston Junior College Boys A; Won 2-1 Kristin School Boys; Lost 1-2 Cambridge HS Boys (semi); Lost 1-2 Ormiston Junior College Boys A (3rd/4th).

Project Hyline – helping school families grow their own food

Junior Students from both LAND and Lets Care About Animals classes have been doing a great job rearing Hyline chicks at the school Horticulture Block. The chickens are reared by the students until they are at point of lay then some become school chooks and some are sold to local school families.

Lots of learning for the students – how to care for and provide everything needed for a day old chick to grow through to a point of lay pullet – and just how rewarding it is to see a chick's gradual change as they grow and thrive. The students have reared a total of 100 chickens throughout 2023 and plan to rear up to 150 chickens throughout 2024. Close connections are formed between the students and chickens throughout the year and it was great to see children from local primary schools also enjoying an opportunity to spend time with the young chickens.

The school's full grown hens lay enough eggs throughout the week to cover the costs of the project and students take on the sole responsibility of looking after the chickens throughout weekends.

Build a house and they will learn

It's not every day you can say you've built a house, but for 11 Te Paepae o Aotea students the proof is sitting in the back field of their school grounds.

For the third year in a row, Te Paepae o Aotea students have had the opportunity to take part in the Trades Academy Hanga Whare (Build a Bach) project that sees them build a three-bedroom house for sale over the course of the school year.

"The Build a Bach project in South Taranaki is a wonderful example of community education at work with secondary and tertiary working side-by-side in the learners' community," says WITT Te Pūkenga Director, Teaching Partnerships, Ben Naughton.

The Trades Academy students gain NCEA credits and attend school alongside their building commitments while developing the foundation skills needed to progress to further learning or move directly into employment.

"Students are given a taster of the trade and they can decide whether it is something they want to pursue as a career through an apprenticeship or further education," says Ben.

Through the programme, students not only learn the ins and outs of how to use tools and work safely and efficiently in a building site environment, they learn things that are harder to measure like teamwork, communication skills and time management.

Te Paepae o Aotea students, Aaron Mason and Cheyanne Cavery, both said how good it was to learn new things outside of the classroom even though the build was challenging at times. Both are returning to school next year and Aaron hopes to get into a trade following his secondary schooling.

At the end of year celebration event, South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said how much he loves seeing young people achieve. With a background as an electrician himself, he spoke of the lifelong benefits of having a trade.

"Students would be surprised at just how much learning falls out of a practical project like this, including plenty of literacy and numeracy skills," says Ben.

Fellow students can also see the project progress and are often inspired to take part in the programme the following year.

"Research says the longer you stay in education the more doors stay open and the better outcomes there are. We commonly hear reports of high engagement in our Trades Academy programmes, reinvigorating learners and for some, it even gives them a reason to stay at school," says Ben.

Graduating students have not only picked up a wealth of skills and opened doors to new pathways at school and in the community, they can see a visible reminder of their hard work every day.

"We are delighted to see the progress our students have made in the Hanga Whare build programme. Most of our students involved have not only learnt useful skills but have gained a significant amount of credits which count toward their NCEA qualification," says Te Paepae o Aotea Leader of Learning – Tumukaki, Rachel Williams.



Ruaputa'anga Celebration

Members of our local community and students of Te Paepae o Aotea gathered at Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust to celebrate and bless the final resting place of Ruaputa'anga. Since July, our Year 9-10 NCEA Art students have been working with Ngāti Ruanui to complete our mural of Ruaputa'anga. Koro Turangapito and Matua Hemi shared korero with students as a springboard to their mural planning. These stories were woven together and involved planning and consulting with the iwi until a finalised plan emerged. Ruaputa'anga stands strong, her arms stretched out toward her iwi, her fiery red hair making her impossible to miss and her pawa eyes watching over her extended whānau. "I am immensely proud of how the students have worked together. This mural is a result of heartfelt collaboration between our students and Ngāti Ruanui. It has been a privilege to hear first-hand from kaumatua of their love and respect of their precious tipuna. We can only hope they are as proud of the result as we are. A blessing was held and was a perfect opportunity to celebrate her completion." Emily Davidson.