



Muritai Beacon

'Be The **Best** We can be'

Rāhina 27 o Hui-tanguru,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

It has been a whirlwind start to the term! From navigating the elements to celebrating our students' leadership and sporting achievements, there is a lot to be proud of across our school community.

A huge thank you to everyone for your support and flexibility during last week's weather events. Closing the school is never an easy decision, but your cooperation ensured everyone stayed safe. Fortunately, we escaped with very little damage—just a few downed tree branches to clear away. It was great to have some keen students helping out with the clean-up upon our return to school. We appreciate your patience as we navigated the logistics of the closure.

What a difference a week makes! We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day for the Kororā and Tūi Swimming Sports on Wednesday. Beyond the races and the participation, the highlight of the day for me was seeing our senior students supporting our younger ones. Whether it was a cheering word at the end of a lane or a helping hand getting ready, that Tuakana-Teina spirit was on full display.

Jon Mackie and I have had the absolute pleasure of interviewing our Year 8 students who applied for Head Student roles. It was truly heartening to hear them speak so confidently about what they love most about Muritai School, their desire to give back to the community, and their visions for leading while demonstrating our Living and Learning Values.

The calibre of our young leaders is exceptional, and choosing our final representatives was no easy task. I am pleased to announce our Head Students for 2026:

Head students: Tessa Hayward & Fraser Halman

Deputy Head Students: Mahinarangi Barker & Finn Anderson-Budd.

Keep a look out for more information about these students in our next newsletter, along with other student leadership announcements!



This year, our annual school picnic took us to Bishops Park and Eastbourne Pool. The change in venue proved to be a massive hit! It was a wonderful day of connection and play, and it was great to see families enjoying this new setting together.

It was wonderful to have our Kapa Haka mornings commence today in the hall. Whaea Hilary is once again leading both rōpū this year with the support of Carmen McDonald and our talented parent guitarists! A reminder that community Kapa Haka starts at 8:30 am and is open for everyone to attend—including you! It is always a great way to start the morning.

Property update

If you’ve walked past the two-story block lately, you’ll see construction is moving at pace. Windows and cladding installation is currently underway, and the scaffolding has been shrink-wrapped, which means we are fully prepped and ready for the roof replacement to begin. Thanks again for your patience with the building fences and restricted construction zones.

Car Boot Sale

A massive shout-out to our incredible Home and School team for organizing the Car Boot Sale this past Sunday! It was a fantastic success, with a great turnout and a wonderful atmosphere. It was lovely to see so many families finding new treasures and supporting the school. Thank you to everyone who hosted a stall or came along to browse—your support makes a real difference. Over \$2000 was raised this year!



Our Living Values

Our Living Value focus for Term 1 is Respect. We are actively looking for students who demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and their environment. This focus is currently the driving force behind our Principal Certificates and Gotcha rewards across the school. It’s wonderful to see our students putting this value into practice every single day.



Update from the Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees held their first hui of the year this week. Key tasks included approving the school’s [Annual Plan](#), which can be viewed on our school website via the link. The Board also approved our budget for 2026. Part of this involved confirming parent donation amounts and student activity fees. These contributions are vital in ensuring our school runs successfully. Keep a look out for further information on these payments, which will be sent home next week.

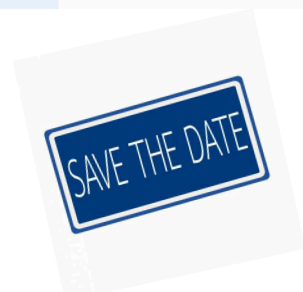
Additionally, our Board set dates for two Teacher Only Days this year for our teachers to dedicate towards the new curriculum professional development. These dates are attached to public holidays which may assist with families planning a short trip away. Please save these dates:

Friday 29 May (the following Monday is Kings Birthday)

Friday 23rd October (the following Monday is Labour Day)

Muritai School Strategic Plan: 2024 – 2026
‘To be the BEST we can be.’

Learning - AKO	Working together - MAHI TAHI	Environment - TAIAO
Strategic Goals		
Our people will be well equipped with the right tools in their kete to be lifelong learners.	Our people will be their BEST through a cohesive & collaborative approach.	Our people will thrive by having strong connections with our place.
Key Initiatives		
Raising Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise Learning Achievement for ākonga Māori 	Strengthening Manaakitanga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea & Whānau Staff Well Being 	Buildings and Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimagining our indoor spaces
Enabling our Team Kaimahi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Curriculum Implementation Learning Curriculum Implementation 	Whānau Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting on achievement & attendance Whānau Kōwhiri 	Beach to Bush <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Ara Tupai Kāhakaiaitanga Guardianship
Learning Map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Profile Universal Design for Learning 	Mātauranga Māori <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mana Whānau 	Learning Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready for Learning
What does success look like?		
Our team will be highly skilled & our students will be engaged in rich curriculum.	Our culture will be inclusive with a strong focus on hauora and leadership.	Our environment and practise will reflect a sense of connectivity and cohesion.



Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

One of the policies to review this term is cellphones and other personal digital devices - this includes **smart watches**. We discourage these devices from coming to school, regardless of what 'mode' they may be on. If cell phones or smart watches come to school they must be handed into the classroom teacher at the beginning of the day and will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. The full policy can be [viewed here](#)

Muritai Students in the Spotlight!

We had some busy Muritai students excel at the recent Colgate Games in January. Congratulations to Skylar Filamu who came away with Gold medals for the 60m, 100m, and 200m races! Blake McCorkindale also earned herself a Gold medal in the Mixed Relay for her age group. Congratulations to both girls for these amazing achievements!



Ngā Mihi

Stu Devenport

THE HERO APP

If you booked a time with your teacher - a double thumbs up as it also means you have downloaded our new HERO communication app. This will be the key platform we will be using to communicate with you at home and it is super easy to navigate. It's been wonderful to hear such positive feedback already! If you haven't connected yet, please follow the instructions here. If you do have difficulty, feel free to pop into the school office for assistance.

READY, SET, SIGN IN!

Stay in the loop by following these steps.

- DOWNLOAD THE HERO APP**
Once downloaded, click "Sign In"
- ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**
Select "Next"
- SELECT "NEW USER"**
Your account will be set up by your school using the email address that you provided when you enrolled your children, use this address to request a password.
- CHECK YOUR EMAIL**
You should receive an email within five minutes.
- FOLLOW THE LINK**
This will take you to a secure page to enter your chosen password.

If you encounter problems logging in, please check with your school to make sure they have the correct details for you.

Hero



Garden News:

We hope you have had a chance to explore our beautiful school garden. We have had great success with our crops harvesting potatoes, cucumbers, kamokamo, beans and lots of beautiful flowers.

On Wednesday after school there will be a Mara Muritai Garden meet up - come along to potter around in the garden with a garden whanau!

We are also on the look out for the following donations for our garden...

- Logs for seating in the garden
- Seedlings
- Garden tools

ALSO...If you have any excess produce you can bring them to the Mara Muritai stand in the foyer to share with the community

Our next **Community Garden Working Bee** will be on **Saturday March 14th**

Principal Awards

Congratulations to the students listed who all received a Principal Award during our last two assemblies. Well done to you all! Isla Owen, Ari De Wilde, Scout Calder, Summer Lyall. Ollie Bond, Marco Wolken, Zoe Cornforth McGregor & Alexander Jamison were chosen for fish no chips with Mr D!



27 February	13 February	
Zoe Cornforth McGregor, Marlin Kvale	Eamon Houston, Cooper Groves	Room 1
Bo Brooks, Idris Darr	Franco Shields, Ellie Urias	Room 2
Mai Fox, Mary Lou Bruno	Max Wilson, Isla Owens	Room 3
Annika Bailey Rotman, Alexander Jamison	Matilda Harty, Isaac Nicholls	Room 4
Ari Ryburn, Ollie Bond	Pippa Salmon, Ashton Paulsen	Room 5
Marco Wolken, Saskia Taylor	Beau Incedon, Summer Lyall	Room 6
Hendrix Vincent, Eliza Tomescu	Ada Ludbrook, Fionn Good	Room 7
Juno Calder, Maggie Fahey	Liam Ferns, Olivia Haidon	Room 8
Florence Taylor, Teddy Innes	Taylor Tout, Miette Cuttriss	Room 9
Evie Eglinton, Nova Innes	Riley Hafner, Miles Faulknor	Room 10
Tamatia Barker, James Stewart	Jessica Quinn, Fraser Harris	Room 11
Blake Russell, Charlotte Ashe	Ari DeWilde, Isobelle Bargiacchi	Room 17
Freya Davidson, Toby Frances Moore	Lilibeth Tomescu, Darlene Tareha-Smith	Room 21
George McIntosh, Sam Delaney	Olivia Dawson, Tess Hayward	Room 22
Archer Coleman, Evie Phillips	Scout Calder, Betty McDonald	Room 23

Important Dates	
Date	Event
9 Mar	Pizza Monday
14 Mar	Garden Working Bee
16 Mar	Pizza Monday
16-19 Mar	School Photos
20 Mar	Assembly whole school
23 Mar	Pizza Monday
23 Mar	Boostrix vaccination for Y7's
25-27 Mar	Camp Makahika Kererū
30 Mar - 2 Apr	Kāhu Technology
2 Apr	Assembly whole school
2 Apr	Last Day of Term 1 Normal finishing time

2026 Dates:

Term 1 Wednesday 4 February - Thursday 3 April

Term 2 Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July

Term 3 Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4 Monday 12 October to Wednesday 16 December

COMMUNITY NOTICES - Please Note - the following notices have been requested to be published and are not necessarily endorsed by us as a school. In the spirit of community we include these digitally for you to peruse.

Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki – Children's Day, is a special day for celebrating children, held on the first Sunday of March each year.

We're excited to share that this year we will be celebrating at Staglands by offering **ALL KIDS ½ PRICE ENTRY**. It's the perfect chance to bring the whānau together, explore our beautiful new spaces, and enjoy a fun day out.

July 17 Offer valid: Children's Day weekend – 28th Feb & 1st March only.

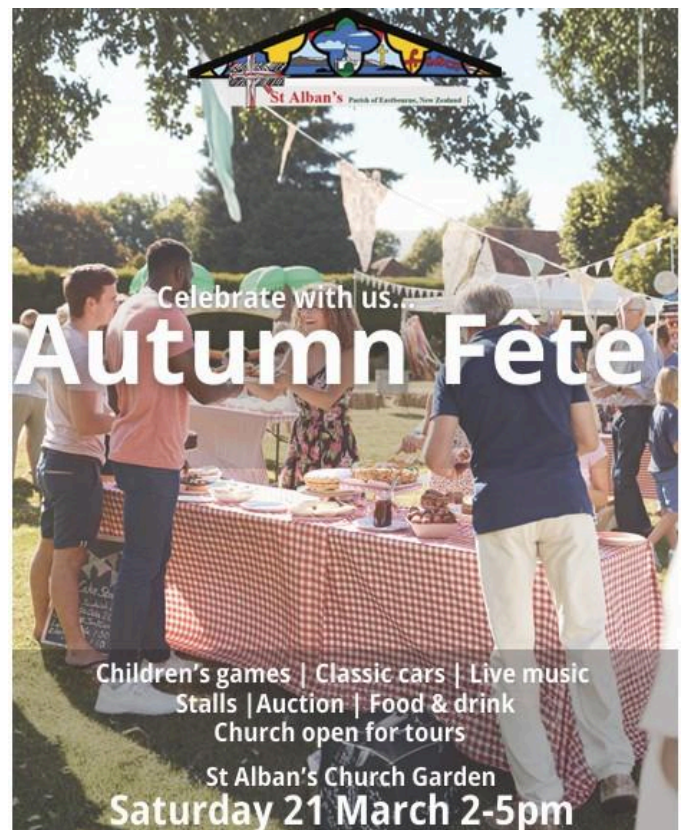
! Not valid with any other offers, including Entertainment Book.

Plus, our always-popular free tractor trailer rides will be running (weather and circumstances permitting) 🚜 and you can expect to meet lots of adorable birds & animals too! 🐣 🐑



1/2 Price Kids Entry
Children's Day weekend!

Staglands
Wildlife Reserve & Café

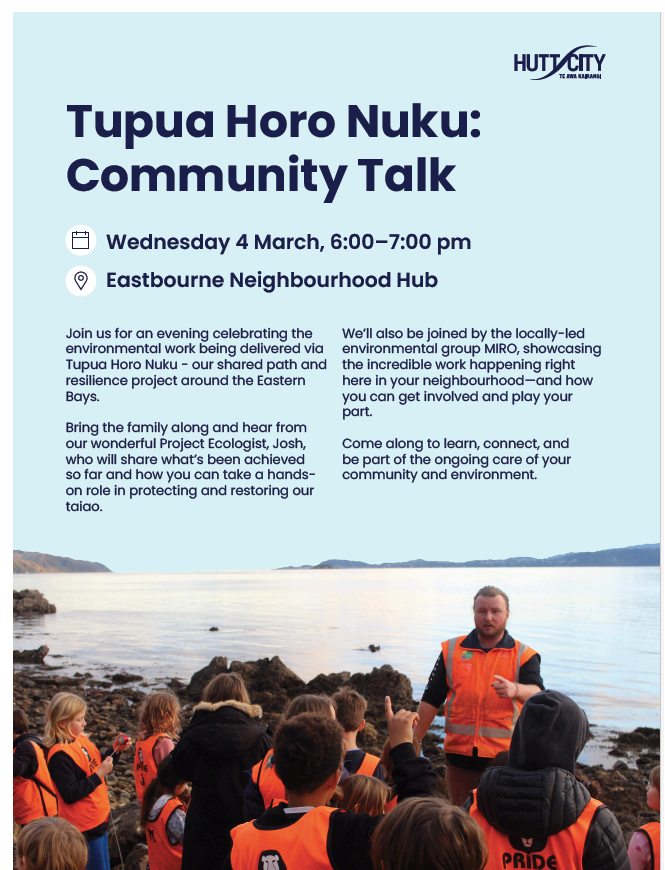


St Alban's Parish of Eastbourne, New Zealand

Celebrate with us...
Autumn Fête

Children's games | Classic cars | Live music
Stalls | Auction | Food & drink
Church open for tours

St Alban's Church Garden
Saturday 21 March 2-5pm



HUTT CITY
TE PŪA KŪKŪ

**Tupua Horo Nuku:
Community Talk**

📅 **Wednesday 4 March, 6:00–7:00 pm**
📍 **Eastbourne Neighbourhood Hub**

Join us for an evening celebrating the environmental work being delivered via Tupua Horo Nuku – our shared path and resilience project around the Eastern Bays.

We'll also be joined by the locally-led environmental group MIRO, showcasing the incredible work happening right here in your neighbourhood—and how you can get involved and play your part.

Bring the family along and hear from our wonderful Project Ecologist, Josh, who will share what's been achieved so far and how you can take a hands-on role in protecting and restoring our taiao.

Come along to learn, connect, and be part of the ongoing care of your community and environment.