



MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

School Description

Location

Mangakāhia Area School is located in Titoki, in the Mangakāhia valley and is within the Hapū boundaries of Te Parawhau and Ngāpuhi te Iwi. The school is approximately 20 minutes' drive northwest of Whangarei and about 40 minutes east of Dargaville. The school is centrally located giving access to the expansive west coast beaches of Kaipara, the amazing Kaiwi lakes, the tranquillity of the Bay of Islands and the fast-growing city of Whangārei.

History

Many generations from the Mangakāhia Valley have been nurtured and educated at the school. Titoki School was first established in 1907 before it was renamed Titoki District High School in 1950 and finally changing its name to Mangakahia Area School in 1976. The school had its centennial in 2007 with many former students returning for the night to remember their time and rekindle old friendships.

The intergenerational connections and whanaungatanga drive the passion and commitment to the students, the school and its future and that is evident today. The enthusiasm of our whānau and community partners to work with the school leadership to rebuild the school to become again, a vibrant and engaging learning environment that provides the very best opportunities for all the students, is a key strength. Whānau and community commitment alongside the exceptional natural resources of the area means the potential of this school is truly significant.

While the student roll has fluctuated over the years, the current roll level requires a focussed approach to resetting the direction of the school with the whānau and community to ensure that the school can provide a safe and inspiring environment that provides quality education and meets the needs of the students and their whānau. Developing this vision and strategic direction will be dependent on strong relationships, guided by competent and connected leadership. The school has the facilities to grow significantly and resources for investment in student learning.

Mangakāhia Area School is a school for the community. We have a vibrant and well-stocked Community Library as well as our 2 modern gymnasias (full size basketball, badminton, netball courts), AstroTurf courts, and fitness trail always open to the whānau and wider community. We also host He Matariki School for Teen Parents (which is based in Whangārei) and there is a purpose-built, well-organised and busy community Playcentre. This is to ensure that all tamariki and their whānau can access educational opportunities, resources and support.

Mangakāhia Area School has a strong focus on kaitiakitanga and are an Enviro-School Green-Gold Award holder - the first school in Northland to hold this award. This is a priority area for further curriculum development given the resources we can access. We are self-sufficient in



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terms of water and carry out a full recycling programme throughout the Kura, we are also a Schoolgen School, having a number of solar panels generating electricity for us.

For a small rural school, we offer a lot of choices and opportunities to our ākonga, with individual attention, guidance and support, access to specialist subjects and facilities.

The school belongs to Ngā Kura mō te ako o Whangārei Group 4 Kāhui Ako and participates in professional development with colleagues.

A portfolio of five rental houses is another school asset, currently extensive renovations are underway to bring the houses up to Healthy Homes legislative requirements.

Our Staff

Staffing at Mangakāhia Area School is stable and includes 12 teachers, 3 of whom are fulltime in the Junior area, 2 provide Food and Hard Technology for 4 visiting schools, and 7 teachers are a mixture of full and part time in the Senior school.

The Leadership Team comprises of a fulltime Principal, DP with responsibilities in Junior school and an AP who leads the secondary area.

We also have 2 Support staff, 2 Cleaners, a Caretaker, a Teacher Aide. The Learning Support Coordinator of our Kāhui Ako is based at the school with the office and resource area currently undergoing an extensive upgrade.

Our students

What is great about an Area School is the whānau connections. Many of our students in the Junior area have older siblings or whānau in the Senior school. Our kura is one large whānau. Unlike many schools, we have the benefit of building a close working relationship with our students and their whānau which spans their entire primary and secondary education. This means that the school knows the student and their whānau really well and is therefore in the best position to provide educational opportunities and support. Furthermore, small class sizes mean students get high levels of individual attention.

The current roll is 80 students, 93% of students are Māori which is significant.

Key community support groups include the whānau of ākonga, Te Rōpū Takiwā o Mangakāhia, Mangakāhia Community Trust, and the PTA.

Te Rōpū Takiwā o Mangakāhia is made up of delegates from the five Marae in the valley:

Korokota Marae: Te rohe o Titoki

Maungārongo Marae: Te rohe o Poroti

Te Aroha Marae: Te rohe o Parakao

Te Tārai o Rāhiri Marae: Te rohe o Pakotai

Parahaki Marae: Te rohe o Nukutawhiti



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Many of our students also whakapapa and connect with neighbouring Marae and Hapū:
Tau Henare Marae: Te rohe o Pipiwai
Eparaima Marae: Te rohe o Kaikou.

During 2018 parents and community groups participated in a Community Hui to reset the direction of the school after some years of declining roll and quality of education. A number of work strands emerged, and the community engaged in good faith with this process. Re-establishing these work strands will be a critical focus for new leadership. Recently, we established a Reference Group comprising of key whānau and partners within the community. This group provides the Commissioner with a community voice feeding into critical relationships, planning and decision making. This is paving the way for a return to self-governance at the appropriate time.

For further information please contact Commissioner, Vivien Knowles
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