



Uniform Shop Hours

Wednesdays

11:00am - 11:30am
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Dates to Remember

17 - 21 November

Yr 9/10 Science Wānanga

Friday 14 November

Regional Teacher Only Day

Sun 23 Nov - Mon 24 Nov

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Tramp

Friday 28 November

Battle in the Bay Hip Hop

Thursday 4 December

Senior Prizegiving

Thursday 11 December

Junior Tabloids

Friday 12 December

Junior Prizegiving

Last day for Juniors for 2025

FAREWELL CLASS OF 2025

On Friday 31 October we had our final assembly of 2025. As our last time together as whole school it was an important time to acknowledge several important things. Firstly, we announced the winner of the House Cup. Our house system is an important part of being Proudly Karamū. Whether Tukituki, Te Mata, Kaweka or Heretaunga we love seeing the fiercely competitive spirit at our house events; passion shown in dressing up is matched in participation. Our ability to hold house events that balance competition with participation is uniquely Karamū and should be a reason everyone attends. If students didn't get to a house event this year, let it be a goal for 2026. Whānau should support this attendance like every other day attendance.

The 2025 results:

4th place - Te Mata 265 points

3rd place - Heretaunga 250 points

2nd place - Tukituki 292 points

And that therefore leaves Kaweka with 317 points.

Congratulations to all members of Kaweka, especially Year 13 house leaders Raiha O'Shaughnessy and Kate Trowbridge!



PRINCIPAL

At the leaver's assembly we also acknowledged the staff (at this point in time) that will leave or have recently left Karamū. It is often with mixed emotions that we say goodbye, as we are happy when staff move on for family or personal growth.

Finally, I took the opportunity to address the Year 13 leavers ... Here is my address to the Year 13 class of 2025... Today's assembly is a special milestone for our Year 13 students as they forge the path from students to Tira Ora - the branchlet of the Karamū tree. This year has also been a special one for me as I spent a quarter focusing on spending a little more time with my family so today my parting message to you is around just that - **whānau**. And what does or could whānau mean?

W - Whānau - Family first. Whatever your family group is ... blood, friends, colleagues, team mates ... whoever. Hold them tight. Spend time with them. Either in person or online. But time is golden because before you know it time is gone. Someone pretty big once said "Don't count the days; make the days count" (Muhammad Ali)

H - Home - Where is your home or your special place? Your turangawaewae. Home is where your heart is. Your whare, your house, your beach, your land ... Hopefully a little bit of your heart will always be here at Karamū. Because if you have been here for 1, 2 or 5 years these have been special, memorable and notable years.

A - Agile. Be prepared to change your direction. Whether that be in your opinion, your attitude, in your study or in your career. Listen to yourself, listen to others and diversify.

N - is for no. Learn to say it so you have balance, but learn to accept hearing it. That means being resilient when things don't go your way. We can overcome adversity and bounce back when we learn that it's okay when things don't always go our way.

A - Accepting. Be accepting of others different than you. Fullstop.

U - is a little creative license. U for you. Always be the best version of you. As you leave Karamū keep that as a goal - you are you, look after you and just be the best version of you - and as I said to you as juniors "Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who is you-er than you!"

I wish all our leavers all the very best as they venture out to experience their next challenge. Whether entering an apprenticeship, starting a job or heading to university - best wishes. As they face whatever life has instore remember you are now a Tira Ora, a branchlet of the Karamū tree, a Proud Karamū alumni and your knowledge is your strength, He Mana tō te Mātauranga.

Noho ora mai

Mrs Dionne Thomas
Tumuaki/Principal



BUS UPDATE INFORMATION

As we prepare for the 2026 school year, we need to advise whanau of changes for students travelling on the Maraekakaho school bus. According to the Ministry of Education (MoE) guidelines, your student is bypassing their nearest state secondary school (Flaxmere College) and are therefore deemed ineligible for funded transportation. However, Tranzit are offering ineligible students transportation with the following guidelines:

- **Seat Availability:** Ineligible students may only travel if spare seats are available after all eligible students are seated. If any eligible student is standing, ineligible students cannot travel. If the bus becomes full, ineligible students must be removed. This is a contractual requirement under the MoE transport agreement.
- **Bypassing Schools:** If a student is bypassing their closest qualifying school, written permission from the principal of that school must be obtained. (Karamū will organise this for you). This permission can be revoked at any time.
- **Notice of Removal:** Removal can occur with as little as one day's notice, based on a 'last on, first off' system (determined by the date Tranzit received the ineligible transport agreement).
- **Fare:** A fee of \$285 per term applies for ineligible students. Tranzit will provide details on how to make payments.

Next steps:

Students are to collect the Tranzit Ineligible Student Agreement from the school office ASAP, or if preferred, we can email you a copy. Once completed and signed please return to the school office and we will organise for the agreement to be signed by the principal of the bypassing school and finally we will return it to Tranzit on your behalf.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Gunn.
(Bus Controller)

DONATION SCHEME

In 2026 we will once again be eligible to be part of the government donation scheme.

This means we will not be asking parents, caregivers or whānau for school donations. The exception is for overnight camps, courses that have a take home item (ie: technology) or co-curricular activities (ie: sport, music, culture etc. - which are of course all optional).

Should you have any questions at anytime about costs or charges please in the first instance contact the teacher in charge, then either Herora Brown - accounts administration accounts@karamu.school.nz or admin@karamu.school.nz

PRINCIPAL'S SABBATICAL REPORT

Having a term off was a privilege and an opportunity. Both for me and those that remained at school - to experience leadership growth and stretch. I would like to take the time to share some of my time away with our community.

My first destination on my trip was to London to visit my middle son Daniel. It was a list of firsts - my first time in the UK, the first time seeing him in his new 'home' since he had transferred to London seven years ago and the first time I had ever been away from New Zealand for longer than the obligatory two week school holiday period.

Following just over a week in London (just time enough to tour the city, experiencing the underground and see the icons of Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, the Tate Gallery etc), we then flew to Europe. We spent over three weeks travelling around Europe, including Spain, Italy, France and Portugal.

Travelling through Europe was an incredibly enriching experience, because its **such** a patchwork of languages, traditions, and customs. **And the food!** Every country and often every region has its own cuisine. You learn to try new things, appreciate local ingredients, and understand how food reflects culture and geography.

And **history comes alive**: Walking through ancient ruins in Rome, seeing the Statue of David and posing with the Leaning Tower of Pisa gives one a **real** understanding of history.



While the travel was amazing, having a rest was amazing and spending time with my whānau was amazing. My message to the students on my return has been while being in unfamiliar places pushes you out of your comfort zone I certainly encourage them all to travel, because going away also teaches you home is pretty good too.

I finished my travels in Japan. Here I attended the World Conference on Education and Training. I was one of only three participants from NZ, the other 200+ were from all over the world, including Kazakhstan, the US, China, Belgium, Lithuania and Austria. The conference, just like the delegates, was diverse, but I focused my attendance at sessions on AI and policy, as next year we will be introducing more robust teachings and direction around

PRINCIPAL'S SABBATICAL REPORT



AI use at school, both for staff and students. Japan as a country however was amazing. Having had Japanese taught at Karamū for many years now it was good to get a greater understanding of it as a country and as a language. Most days we walked over 20,000 steps in close to 40 degrees with up to 90% humidity. Crowds were huge, but the people were very polite, respectful and quiet. I tried hard to speak Japanese but occasionally my requests got lost in translation: Thought I ordered ramen. Got a mountain of wasabi. Another memorable and funny thing is that the toilets are smarter than an iPhone 11.

I want you to remember though, while the travel was amazing, having the opportunity to attend the conference was amazing and experiencing Japan was amazing.

My message to you all, is while being in a different country, with new experiences pushes you out of your comfort zone, I certainly encourage all of you to travel, because going away also teaches you nothing is like returning to home.



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - CURRICULUM



With NCEA starting on Tuesday 4 November for Level 2 and 3 students and the following week for Level 1 students on Monday 10 November, we want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our senior students as they prepare for their upcoming NCEA external examinations.

These exams are a vital part of their academic journey. It is expected that all students will sit each of their scheduled externals. We ask our students to put in their best effort, striving for improvement, and approaching their studies with purpose and determination.

For Year 11 and 12 students, these exams will play a significant role in determining their eligibility for courses in 2026. For Year 13 students, they are the final step toward gaining University Entrance (UE) and meeting the specific entry requirements for their chosen tertiary courses.

We encourage students to establish strong study habits and make the most of the time available to them. Effective preparation, consistent revision, and a focused mindset will help them achieve their goals. When students are not at school it is not a time to hang out with friends or take on extra hours of part-time work. If a student cannot sit an examination for medical or tragic personal reasons (ie: bereavement), it is important to contact me immediately to initiate the Derived Grade process as there are specific forms that must be completed.

All students sitting external examinations have been given a personalised Admission Slip for entry into their examinations. It is important that students know when their examinations are as this is the only time these examinations can be sat.

The exam timetable can be found here:

<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/NCEA/2025-Exam-Timetable.pdf>

With the seniors on study leave, our juniors move into Junior High with five weeks of learning still left. Teachers have planned this time specifically for their junior students. This includes an all-day field trip for Year 9's organised by the social science and English faculties. During the five weeks, they will also complete some PAT testing or subject specific testing to measure progress from the beginning of the year. Students are encouraged to give their best. Finally, we will celebrate students' successes at our end of year prizegivings. Our **Senior Prizegiving is Thursday 4 December** and our **Junior Prizegiving is on Friday 12 December**. (Email invites will be sent out soon).

Ngā mihi

Ms Sarah Gunn
Deputy Principal - Curriculum

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - STAFF



Junior High Update - As we move into Junior High, this is a great opportunity for our junior students to refresh and restart. During the final five weeks of the year, we restructure the timetable to best support their learning. Our junior leaders have an opportunity to step up and take on new initiatives, helping to lead and shape activities for the remainder of the year.

The physical education department is combining groups of four classes to run mini house competitions, with all students contributing towards the junior house trophy. Elective courses increase to four hours per week, allowing students to complete their programmes in what is always a busy and slightly shorter term. Meanwhile, the social science and English faculties are undertaking field trips to Napier as part of their curriculum work, making this a vibrant and engaging end to the year.

Looking ahead to 2026, all students have now selected their courses for next year. We are currently building the timetable around these selections to ensure each student has an engaging and well-planned learning programme. Some adjustments may occur as students receive exam results, reconsider career directions, or discover new passions. It's important that they continue to communicate with either me or Ms Walter as we finalise subject placements for 2026. Finally, we are hard at work preparing another fantastic school magazine. If you have any great photos from the sidelines or school events, please send them through to me at dhollands@karamu.school.nz.

Mr Damien Hollands
Deputy Principal - Staff

DID YOU GO TO KARAMU IN THE
1980S?

WE WILL BE HOSTING A REUNION OF THOSE
THAT STARTED KARAMU HIGH SCHOOL
IN THE 3RD FORM
FROM 1980 TO 1989

18-19
SEPTEMBER 2026

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
EMAIL: TIRAORA@KARAMU.SCHOOL.NZ
SPREAD THE WORD WITH FRIENDS AND WHĀNAU.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - PASTORAL

Kia Ora Koutou, Talofa Lava, Malo e Lelei, Kia Orana, and warm greetings



As seniors approach their final days of schooling before commencing exams, it's a good time to reflect and reminisce on another successful academic year. It's been an extremely busy year, so students should be proud of what they have achieved. It's pleasing to hear the high level of success across the board.

To all the senior leavers who embark on life post-school, I wish you all the best for your future endeavours. I am sure you will have many fond memories of your time at Karamū High School, and I know you will cherish these memories for a lifetime.

With study leave imminent for seniors, many students will be turning their focus to preparing for exams. With the added pressure and stress of exams, it is important to remember to look after your well-being. Some options you can take to help alleviate stress and help your overall wellbeing:

- Get involved with some form of physical activity;
- Be available to family and friends;
- Manage your time by creating a daily schedule;
- Take some time out for you;

Finally, with Junior High starting next week, it is important that all Year 9 and Year 10 students continue to set high standards for themselves.

I challenge you to regularly demonstrate our WELCOME values plus show high levels of effort and engagement in the classroom. This will help maximise your learning opportunities and give you a high chance to receive some Karamū currency by being recognised for demonstrating the school values.

Nga mihi nui

Mr Troy England
Deputy Principal - Pastoral

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-2028

Following the triennial elections completed in September we are pleased to introduce the new Karamū High School Board of Trustees.

The Board will be led by parent representee Presiding Member (Chair) Masae Leleimalefaga and have the following parent elected members:

- Grant Russell
- Leana Becker
- Elyse Hutchinson
- Rion Roben

Mr Ben Roberts is the elected staff representative, and Maddie Leigh is the elected student representative. Mrs Dionne Thomas is a member as the principal and Mrs Gemma Meiring is the secretary.

Please refer to School Docs for Policy's and all board correspondence is to be directed to the secretary at admin@karamu.school.nz attn Board of Trustees.



Back Row: Grant Russell, Leana Becker, Elyse Hutchinson, Gemma Meiring, Maddie Leigh
Front Row: Dionne Thomas, Rion Robin, Masae Leleimalefaga (Presiding Member), Ben Roberts

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 - 2030 CONSULTATION

Mahere Rautaki 2024-2026

Strategic Plan 2024-2026

Tauākī Whakamaunga atu

Mission Statement

To provide opportunities that inspire learners to grow as positive members of our community

Te anga whakamua

Vision

Proudly Karamū	Proudly Hastings	Proudly Learning
Who we are and what we stand for	Active members of the community	Aiming to “better our best”

Mātāpono

Values

Our vision, **Proudly Karamū, Proudly Hastings, Proudly Learning** provides a clear and concise set of outcomes for both our staff and ākonga to aspire to.

Our vision, however is underpinned by the following set of values which we as a community have identified as the key to fulfilling our vision.

The following are core values on which Karamū bases its day-to-day operations:

Whanaungatanga - Positive relationships, Collaboration, Respect, and School Pride

Excellence - Fulfilling Potential, Personal Excellence, Acceleration of Learning

Leadership - Initiative, Self-Management, Honesty, Integrity, Reliability

Creativity - Thinking Skills; Innovation, Imagination, Problem Solving, Academic Risk Taking

Overcoming Adversity - Perseverance, Resilience

Manaakitanga - Hospitality, Welcoming, Engaging

Embracing Diversity - Accepting differences, Inclusive

Strategic Aims and Intents

Ako Teaching and Learning			Hauora Well-being		
Learning and teaching programmes will build on our vision and values			The wellbeing of everyone in the school community is important		
Ensure that our programmes and pedagogies enhance student engagement	Ākonga progress is tracked and challenges to learning are identified and addressed	Every ākonga is assisted in building an appropriate and successful transition pathway	Leadership in the school is supported and encouraged	Te Reo me nga tikanga Māori is embedded in the daily life of the school and the curriculum	A highly supportive and culturally responsive pastoral and academic guidance system exists
NELP Obj 1	NELP Obj 2	NELP Obj 4	NELP Obj 3	NELP Obj 3	NELP Obj 1

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 - 2030 CONSULTATION

With a new Board of Trustees elected we are keen to start consulting on the next Strategic Plan.

Since 2023 in each Kōrero we shone the spotlight on the Strategic Intents in the current **Strategic Plan** - sharing the progress to date, the current focus and next steps.

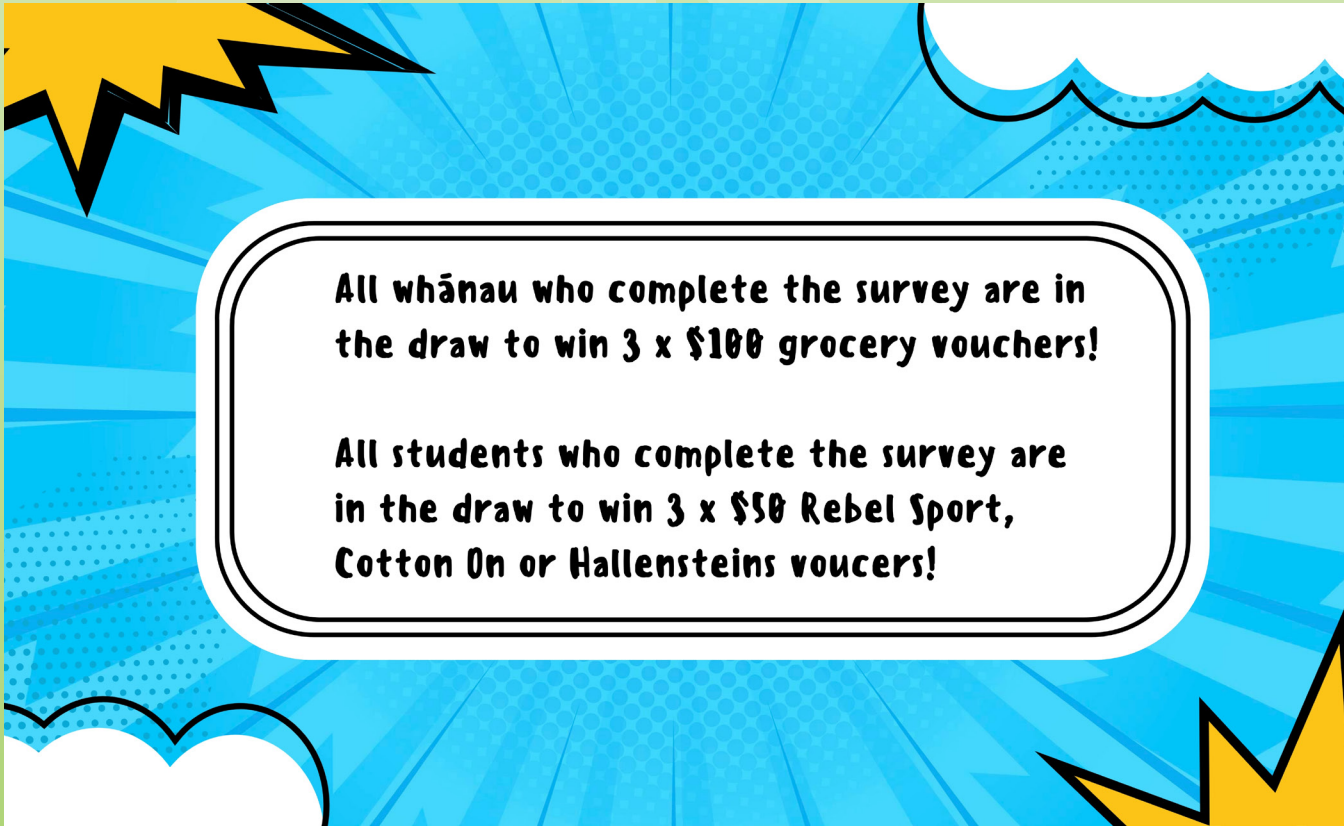
We proceeded this with highlighting the Annual Implementation Goals and mahi towards achieving these.

We hope this has kept you abreast with all of the great mahi and progress within our school and for our ākongā.

On the previous page is the **Strategic Plan - Mahere Rautaki o te kura tuarua o Karamū 2024 - 2026**, which was refreshed from the 2021 - 2024 version. This is used to base our **Annual Implementation Plan - Mahere ā tau o te kura tuarua o Karamū** from. Both are always available on our website (in the Our Documents section).

Please refer to the Strategic Plan before completing the survey.

[Strategic Plan Consultation – Fill out form](#)



All whānau who complete the survey are in the draw to win 3 x \$100 grocery vouchers!

All students who complete the survey are in the draw to win 3 x \$50 Rebel Sport, Cotton On or Hallensteins vouchers!

JUNIOR CANOE POLO SUCCESS

Over the weekend of 18 - 19 October our junior boys and girls canoe polo teams competed at the Central East Regional Qualifier with some thrilling games played. After two full days of competition it was great to have both make the finals. The girls played a combined Taradale High School/Napier Girls' High team in the final and went down in a close affair 3 - 2. Junior Girls: Silver.

The boys played Napier Boys' High School in the final and after full time the game was drawn 1 - 1. Golden goal time.... after a three minute defensive phase, Nate Cuthbert gained a rolled turnover to pass and allow a score. Junior Boys: Gold!

They now go on to the NZSS Junior Canoe Polo Championships to be held at the Mitre 10 Sports Park on 15-16 November.



HANDMADE COMPETITION

Over Labour weekend Karamū High School had a big success at the Handmade Show at the A&P Showgrounds.

Emma Wharerau took out first place for her flax top, and **Ariana Olotua** received second and third place for her corset and back pack. Both students received a ribbon and cash prize!

Cyntha Putri also took out first place in the under 18 sewing category with her mini back pack, also getting a ribbon and cash prize.

Well done to all of these students for their hard work and entering in to the Handmade Show:

Corset Belt

Ella Stalker, Janie Giles, Tuihana Ropiha

Corset Belt and Mini Back Pack

Jessica Partridge

Flax Top

Emma Wharerau

Flax Backpack

Manaia NiaNia

Crochet Dress

Calee Scotton

A big thanks to Whaea Dee for her work with these girls making their flax items!



Ariana Olotua, Emma Wharerau

HB SENIOR JAPAN TRIVIA

On Friday, 17 October, four teams of senior Japanese students travelled to Napier Girls' High School to put their knowledge of Japanese culture to the test against teams from Napier Girls' and Havelock North High Schools.

Many students embraced the spirit of the event by dressing in Japanese-themed costumes, creating a fantastic atmosphere. After tackling 60 cultural multi-choice and short-answer questions, it was time to announce the results, and what a moment it was!

Karamū High School achieved an incredible clean sweep, placing 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st. The Year 13 team - Olivia, Nina, Ellie, and Amber took out first place, a fitting finale to their five years of Japanese study at Karamū High School.

These talented Year 13 students first competed together as Year 10s in the Junior Trivia National Competition in 2022 and have represented Karamū in the senior trivia for the past three years. Olivia has now been part of two winning teams, while Ellie and Amber have achieved an impressive three victories each.

Future Karamū teams certainly have big shoes to fill!



PUHORO STEMM

All Year 13 students who have participated in this learning extension and support programme were gifted a pounamu and enjoyed a fantastic dinner at the Havelock North function centre with their whānau on 14 October to acknowledge the completion of their journey.

Raiha O'Shaughnessy (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi) was also awarded a special print for the student with best attitude, commitment, dedication and communication with Pūhoro from Wairoa to CHB over this time. This is an exceptional recognition for her mahi over this time.



HBSS SPORTS AWARDS



On Wednesday 15 October we were proudly represented at the Hawke's Bay Secondary School Sports Awards hosted by Sport Hawke's Bay. Held at EIT, Shavaughn Zampese (Year 13) was a nominee in the EIT Female Sportsperson of the Year category for her performance this year in equestrian (Mounted Games).

Whaea Racheal Tiuka was also acknowledged in the Mediaworks 10+ Years Service to Secondary Sport category for her commitment to softball.

It was also an extra special night for league faithful Whaea Racheal Tiuka to meet local rugby league legend Tohu Harris who was interviewed by three secondary school sports council leaders around his journey in league, aspirations for rangatahi and his learnings for life.



VISIT TO UNISON

Media Release - Karamū High School students connect with professionals at Unison



Karamū High School Academic Leader Jemma Crockett with Unison Network Optimisation Engineer Rhett Mulinder

Karamū High School's Academic Institute students spent time at local powerlines company Unison Networks in Hastings, pairing with staff across the business to see how local careers can start close to home.

Year 13 student and Academic leader Jemma Crockett, 17, first raised the need for an opportunity to shadow professionals within a business in Hawke's Bay.

"It was great to get a little more experience of what it is going to be like going into our

degrees and then after, so we are a little more sure of what we want to do."

Jemma, who plans to study mechanical engineering at the University of Canterbury next year, shadowed Unison Network Optimisation Engineer Rhett Mulinder. "I like seeing how an engineer can operate within a business as well."

Karamū deputy principal Sarah Gunn said it was fantastic to see a student-led idea come to life through a partnership with a major Hawke's Bay employer.

"The visit gave our students a real insight into how their strengths can translate into future pathways and that success can start right here at home," she said.

Students began the visit with an introduction to Unison and health and safety before joining mentors in areas including legal, digital, communications, engineering and procurement.

They also attended a morning-tea event held during Mental Health Awareness Week, giving them a chance to meet staff from across the company. Students were also able to meet several alumni of Karamū High School who are now working at Unison.

For Unison, the visit was as much about supporting young people as it was about showcasing the range of careers available in Hawke's Bay. "Unison is committed to supporting young

VISIT TO UNISON

people within our communities through a variety of initiatives, and this was another great way for us to give back,” said Rachel Masters, Group General Manager People, Safety and Culture at Unison. “As a major employer in the region, we were pleased to welcome local students into our business and give them a first-hand look at the breadth of opportunities available at Unison.”

Masters said many people do not realise how diverse Unison’s workforce is. “Most of our community has no idea of the number of different roles that we have here at Unison. We have a legal team, a risk team, people and culture, a whole digital team, graphics, lawyers, procurement, and more,” she said.

She added that the initiative also helped open up an industry that often operates behind the scenes. “Electricity is an important, growing and exciting industry. By opening our doors, we’re helping young people see how fundamental electricity is to our communities, and why we always need fresh talent to keep the lights on for future generations.”

Masters said it was the first time Unison had hosted a school group in an office environment, and the company looked forward to strengthening that connection in the future.



Karamū High School Year 13 student Kennedy Lee with Unison’s Communications and Marketing Manager Kim Parker and Senior Communications and Marketing Advisor John Alexander

SMEDLEY DREAM ACHIEVED

Media Release - Smedley dream achieved for Karamū High School student

Karamū High School Year 13 student Cushla Kyle has achieved a lifelong dream, securing a place at Smedley Station and Cadet Training Farm.



"I've been dreaming of this since Year 6 or 7, and every year I'd see the Smedley posts and hope one day my name would be there. Now it is, and it still hasn't sunk in."

Growing up on her family's sheep and beef farm near Maraekakaho, Cushla's passion for agriculture began early.

"Ever since I was born, I've been on a farm. Anything I could do at a young age, I did. I just threw myself at it."

At just 13, she landed her first station job, working independently on a nearby property. "That really fuelled the fire. I got the farming bug and instantly knew that's what I wanted to do."

Cushla first applied in Year 11, then again in Year 12, narrowly missing out. Faced with the decision to leave school and begin junior shepherding or stay on and reapply, she chose to remain at Karamū. "I'm really glad I stayed. It was a lot of hard thinking, but it all paid off."

Her application included a CV detailing her station experience at Wahanui and Oban Stations, and a personal statement expressing her deep passion for farming. "It's hard to show who you are on paper, but you just have to prove you've got a real passion."

Cushla credits Karamū for helping her tailor her education to her goals. In Year 12, she joined the Trades Academy through EIT to complete Level 2 Agriculture. This year, she has been able to study Level 3 Primary Production via correspondence. "It's been amazing, learning about something you love gives you more motivation."

Next year, Cushla will begin her two-year cadetship at Smedley, living and working on the station. She is especially excited about horseback mustering in her second year. "That's what I'm most looking forward to, being out there with a team of guys and dogs, doing what I love."

Looking ahead, Cushla hopes to one day work on a high country station, ideally in the South

SMEDLEY DREAM ACHIEVED

Island, with a big team of dogs and plenty of horseback work. "That's the end goal," she said.

For Cushla, Smedley is not just a stepping stone. It is a launchpad. "If you have Smedley on your CV, it is a ticket to anywhere, not just in New Zealand but maybe even the world."

Farming runs in the family. Cushla's mother is a farmer. "Mum has always been a huge inspiration," Cushla said. "Both my parents were absolutely stoked when I got in."

Karamū High School principal Dionne Thomas congratulated Cushla and said her selection is a proud moment for the school.

"We haven't had a student get into Smedley for as long as I can remember," she said. "It's incredibly competitive, and for Cushla to earn her place is a real credit to her determination and work ethic."

Karamū High School's Cushla Kyle has achieved her lifelong dream of being selected for Smedley Station and Cadet Training Farm.

NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

Imagine standing up in front of a room full of strangers and having to spell words that you have only learned in the last month. Some words you may never have heard before. Could you do it, or would you let your nerves get the better of you?

Last term a group of five Year 9 students passed a qualifying test and made it to the semifinal of the National Spelling Bee, making them among the top Year 9 and 10 300 spellers in New Zealand. They are Hayley Boston, Lily Ray, Harlow Gambirazzi-McCarthy, Ayesha Singh and Vergel Francisco.

At the semifinal they gathered at Toi Toi with the top spellers from two other schools, and were asked to spell difficult words aloud, without any errors. One wrong letter and they were knocked out. The competition was fierce. There were five rounds, and our spellers made it to rounds four and five, with Ayesha making it to the final round. The winning speller was a Year 10 student from Hastings Christian school.

Congratulations to our brave spellers for making it to the semifinal and putting themselves way out of their comfort zones. If spelling is your thing, think about giving it a go next year!



UPDATES FROM THE STUDENT CENTRE

Careers

This term, we've got a few quick notes and important deadlines for you. Don't forget, we're here to help you with building and planning your career. If you're thinking about leaving school or need help getting your job applications polished, don't be afraid to send us a note on Teams for some assistance. If you pop in to see Mrs Hunter and she's unavailable, you can also fill out an appointment request slip and slide it under her door before going back to class.

Congratulations to students who have been awarded scholarships for next year and accepted into some truly amazing learning programmes!

Studylink

This term, we've had StudyLink in to chat about eligibility and walk students through how to apply. Applications are still open; learn more about how to apply and get started on the [StudyLink website](#). Deadline: 12 December 2025. Need to explore other options for financing your future? [MoneyHub](#) might be a good place to start! (Check out their NCEA study tools too).

Keen on an Apprenticeship?

Senior students keen on an apprenticeship are invited to meet the team at Skills Trades Training (formerly ETCO) to hear about options for electrical engineering, plumbing, gas fitting, and drain laying, and roofing apprenticeships on 17 November at 11:00am. (If you have a conflicting exam, see the careers team afterwards to get the information and flyers.)

Congratulations to the few students who have been selected to participate in Trades Academy in 2026. Please keep an eye on your inboxes; important information about what to expect next year will be sent home soon.

Leaving School

The October issue of "Leaving School" is here! You can find print copies of this free guide to study and careers options all over campus, or online at leavingschool.co.nz. We've found it to be a good place to find ideas for students in any year.

Job Leads

The job leads won't be updated over the summer holidays. We'll leave the links for sample CVs and cover letters up for you. For more tips and resources, visit the [Student Links page](#) on the school website or visit the [jobs leads](#)

Gateway Applications

Gateway applications are still open for work-based learning opportunities in 2026. Please visit Mary in careers or go over the Gateway programme and get an application.

UPDATES FROM THE STUDENT CENTRE

Learner Driver's Licence Support Programme:

Applications have closed for the December session. Watch announcements in 2026 for information about the next opportunity, the course will likely be during a school holiday. If waiting doesn't work for you, you access the [generic study resources for the Learner's test](#). If you have been accepted, please remember that you are expected to attend all three days of the course (December 2 - 4); you must complete all your required in order to be allowed to attend.

Be sure to bring your completed paperwork with you for the first day of the course. Mary gave you a packet with a checklist during the information session at the end of October.

Watch the video Mary shared in the Teams chat two more times before the course starts.

Attendance

Attend today, achieve tomorrow! Thank you to everyone who's worked hard to get their attendance up this time around.

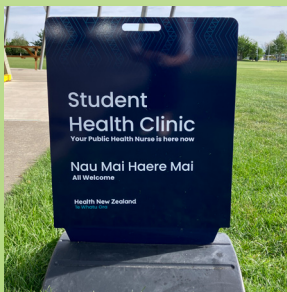
School Counsellors

Reminder that we run an appointment-based system so please do not wait outside our door to be seen. Put a note under our door and return to class and we will send for you when we can. If it is urgent, please put that on the note and report to the main student reception at the main office if you need to.

Parents are free to refer through to us if you feel there is a need. Contact Mark on mrolls@karamu.school.nz or call the school office and ask to be put through.

Counselling support is available for students even while on study leave. Probably the best way to make contact is through Teams.

Public Health Nurse:



*If there is no sign,
there is no nurse*

In Term 4, we have a team of three nurses available to offer health advice and chat about treatment options for heaps of health topics. Whenever the nurse is in, there will be a sign near our front door.

If you stop in to see the nurse and the door is closed, please fill out an appointment request slip and slide it under the door. Return to class or visit the office for first aid, the nurse will send for you when they are available.

Other free, confidential, 24-hour options for help include:

Medical Advice: Healthline - 0800611116

Mental Health and Addiction Support: Need to Talk - Text 1737

Mental Health Support: Lifeline - 0800543354 or text 4357

SURVIVAL SCIENCE IN ACTION: YR9



Year 9 students collecting transpiration water from Karamū plants

Our Year 9 science students have been getting hands-on with their survival science topic, exploring just how essential clean water is and the science behind obtaining it in the wild.

Out in the school grounds, students investigated transpiration, the process by which plants release water vapour through their leaves. Using Karamū plants, they carefully tied clear bags over branches to collect the moisture given off by the leaves. By the end of the day, they could see droplets of fresh water forming inside the bags, a visible reminder of how plants interact with their environment.

Back in the lab, the focus shifted from collection to purification. Students designed and tested their own water filters, layering materials such as sand, gravel, and charcoal to remove particles and impurities from muddy water.

The activity was a great way to apply scientific thinking, experiment through trial and error, and understand the critical importance of clean water for survival.



SENIOR ART EXHIBITION



On Tuesday 28 October, we had our end-of-year exhibition to showcase all of our senior art students' portfolios, and our senior DVC students' completed projects.

It was fantastic to have so many whānau, friends, and staff come along to

support our students and to celebrate all the hard work they have done this year.

As well as a wide range of DVC projects, there were artworks on display from a variety of senior disciplines including painting, sculpture, design and photography, Level 1 digital art and visual art, student-made films from media studies, and several Māori whakairo (carving) pieces. The work was an especially high standard this year and showed how truly creative, talented and diverse our students are. A huge well done to all our young artists and designers!

TIRA ORA 2000

Principal: Mr M J Lewis

Deputy Principal: Mr J M Lynex

Assistant Principal: Mrs J B Clark

Head Boy: Christopher Urwin

Head Girl: Amanda Crichton

Dux: Neil Stewart

General Excellence: Helena Struthers

Sportsman of the Year: Thomas Neilson

MacLeod Service Cup: Te Ariki Rurehe

School Roll: 562

Deputy Head Boy: Thomas Neilson

Deputy Head Girl: Te Rina Timu-Paranihi

Proxime Accessit: Helena Struthers

Te Taonga Trophy for Maoritanga: Leroy Crawford

Sportswoman of the Year: Masae Lealaisalanoa

School:

- All Year 9 taught Keyboard skills
- Wood & Metal – now Design Technology – that can use any medium
- Accounting using Computer programmes
- Karamu wins Māori section of Fair Go Ad Awards
- English Department focus on Shakespeare
- Youth Award Scheme begins during the year
- Last year of Community Education classes



In art class, 2000

Students:

- The green and white summer gingham dress is removed as a uniform item – had been part of the uniform since 1973; skirt is now worn summer and winter with white polo for both boys and girls
- Full set of 100% wool School Blazers bought by the school. A refined version of the original blazer. Issued to students with tie as walking out uniform; plus black trousers for boys and white shirt for girls
- Julia Haydon-Carr is selected as the Tuki Tuki Youth MP
- Karamu has 16 International students
- Whole school Shakespeare Day – theme for all classes, staff and students dress up, Staff lunch – Shakespeare theme

Staff:

- Appointment of Mike Purcell as new Principal
- Caretaker Mr Jacobs leaves after 14 years Mr Rob Poulgrain takes over the role
- Mr Tom Hunter is appointed to Karamu to teach Media Studies & Film
- Position of School Nurse disestablished
- Bursar – Mrs Barbara Walker resigns after 24 years (1976 – 2000)
- New Librarian – Mrs Jan Clothier

Sports:

- Senior Boys' Canoe Polo team win Gold at the NZ Canoe Polo Championships
- Thomas Neilson selected to represent Central Regions in Under 23 National Regional Canoe Polo Championships
- Interschool Sports exchanges – Wairoa College; Heretaunga College;

NEW ZEALAND

- NZ Population: 3,827,000, NZ Government: Labour, NZ Prime Minister: Helen Clark, 2000 Celebrations, Lord of the Rings filming, Varoa bee mite discovered

WORLD EVENTS

- World Population: 6.1 Billion, USA President: Bill Clinton, UK Prime Minister: Tony Blair, Vladimir Putin becomes Russian President, Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon, International Space Station -since then continually occupied

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

If you are a student and you have a concern

If your concern is about	You should first see	If not resolved, then	And is still not resolved
Your learning , eg. classwork and assessment	Your teacher	Your dean	Ms Gunn, Deputy Principal Curriculum
A discipline problem , eg. a detention	The teacher who gave you the detention	Your dean	Mr England Deputy Principal Student Management
A pastoral issue , eg. bullying, attendance	Your mentor teacher	Your dean	Mr England or Mr Rolls/Ms Jensen the Guidance Counsellors

If you are a parent and you have a concern

If your concern is about	You should first see	If not resolved, then	And is still not resolved
A learning problem , eg. classwork and assessment	The dean	Ms Gunn Deputy Principal Curriculum & Assessment	Mrs Thomas Principal
A discipline problem , eg. a detention	The dean	Mr England Deputy Principal Student Management	
A pastoral issue , eg. bullying, attendance	The dean	Mr England or Mr Rolls/ Ms Jensen the Guidance Counsellors	
A financial issue relating to any account or charge	Either Mrs Gray or Ms Brown in the office	Mrs Meiring Principal's EA	

YEAR LEVEL DEANS 2025

At Karamū High School, our year level deans play an important role in the pastoral care of your child. Our year level deans for 2025 are listed below for your information. Please email your child's dean or phone 878 7139 and leave a message, if you wish to contact them.

Year 9 Deans



Tash Crawford
tcrawford@karamu.school.nz

Year 10 Deans



Julie Burn
jburn@karamu.school.nz

Year 11 Deans



Jasmine Black
jblack@karamu.school.nz

Year 12 Deans



Jess Callow
jcallow@karamu.school.nz

Year 13 Deans



Amber Walter
awalter@karamu.school.nz



Mike Fleming
mfleming@karamu.school.nz



Byron Crawford
bcrawford@karamu.school.nz



Josh Parker-Bevin
jparker-bevin@karamu.school.nz



Tom Willis
twillis@karamu.school.nz



Dave Murdoch
dmurdoch@karamu.school.nz

NGĀ POU KAIĀRAHI

Year 9



Holly Bruce
hbruce@karamu.school.nz

Year 10



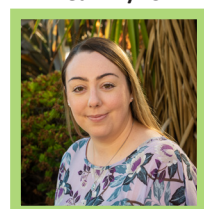
Ashley Blake
ablake@karamu.school.nz

Year 11



Tom Blake
tblake@karamu.school.nz

Year 12/13



Rebecca Love
rlove@karamu.school.nz