

# Rawerongo Newsletter



## Pipiri June 2018

kia ora koutou  
gidday

mingalaba

### Welcomes

Welcome to Kailah-Rose, Tilly-Maree and Josie who have all started just in time to be founding pupils of our new kindergarten, along with the rest of our children.

### Children's Learning

Tangata Whenuatanga—we are listening to what tamariki are interested in and setting the environment so that children can deeply explore their interests. Some new activities this week include painting/glittering leaves and exploring magnetic sand, magnets and dinosaurs from the beach.

Mana Aotūroa/Contribution: children have equitable opportunities for learning to be fair, to treat others fairly and to see another's point of view.

Our involvement with Enviroschools goes on. We are finding out what tamariki know about water at present, and how they use it. Let's see how their knowledge extends as we explore this thread further. (Keep an eye on the cork noticeboard).

We are engaging tamariki in telling our local Boulder Bank Story (reproduced from website The Prow at the end of this newsletter—though we are telling a more politically correct version). This is great oral and visual literacy. If you are able, please give your children experiences of the boulder bank by taking them to play on it and also by showing it to them from a vantage point such as Princes Drive. We have printed a few photographs of it, and Moira has been telling an abridged version of the story using pebbles in the watertrough to re-create the boulder bank. This helps make it more meaningful for tamariki...we plan to paint a mural soon.

Look out in your children's assessment work for stories that relate to the above, and check out the group story books that show all our Enviroschool stories over the past two years.

*Newsletter from Mary, Sam, Deanna, Moira, Debbie, Hannah and Arlene*

### Upcoming Events

We have Kath Bee Coming on 23rd May at 9.30am. Music and Dancing! Anyone from any day VERY welcome.

Todd Seelen is coming to take photos next Thursday, two days after Kath Bee. He will come at 9.30am for a group photo, then again at 1.30pm. Both times he will take individual photos beforehand. It would be awesome to have as many of the children as possible present; if it's not your child's usual day please try to bring them along anyway. Thanks.

### Newsmat

*Please encourage your child to bring things they make, or things they find in nature, for their newsmat time. This helps children to think and find out more about the natural world around them.*

*We see a lot of plastic toys brought along by children; I wonder if children can come up with ideas for more sustainable ways to play—could be worth some parent-child conversations!*

Amby the Ambulance is coming on June 13th at 1.30pm, along with its 'minder', so children can learn about ambulances and hospitals. All welcome.

### Sustainable Practices

We have worm juice and vege juice for sale! This can be fed to your indoor and outdoor plants, and is very nutritious. Tamariki can decide what sustainable items to spend their money on as it builds up—more plants for new kindergarten perhaps, or tools.

Please keep bringing used containers for the juice—this has been great, thanks.

### Eco-bags

Please remember your child's ecobag as we endeavour to use nil plastic shopping bags for wet clothing. We have more for sale in the office window — each one is constructed of pre-loved fabric and is lined; and we are selling them for \$10 each as a fundraiser for kindergarten.

### Speight's Alehoue Quiz Night—Save the Date!!

Our lovely parent Hannah (Caoimhe's Mum) has booked the Speight's Alehouse for us on the night of Monday July 23rd. Save the date, start forming your Team of Knowledge, and let's make a night of it! Profits from the evening go to Kindergarten to help with the shift and setting up of the new centre.

**WE WILL BE PLACING SECONDHAND ITEMS INTO THE CONCRETE AROUND THE FENCE POSTS ALONG THE FOOTPATH OF NEW KINDERGARTEN. IF YOU HAVE ANY APPROPRIATE ITEMS PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG. WE ALREADY HAVE POLISHED PEBBLES, SMALL CHINA DISHES AND A FEW SHELLS.**

#### SPACES AT KINDERGARTEN

*We have spaces here at RSK, which we would love to fill!!*

If you know of anyone looking for a good quality learning environment, tell them to come in and visit, anytime!

*It's a great time as the work for our new centre is organised! Nelmac are hard at work, and in turn we are ready to move in and relax into our new and exciting learning environment as soon as they are done.*

New Kindergarten will see even more spaces available to children as our licence allows us to have 32 children with an added teacher-aide, which means 1;8 ratios, better than the 1:10 Government regulations.

**Please LIKE us on Facebook—we are aiming for 100 LIKES on our page (up to 88 now!). You should easily find us simply by typing Rutherford Street Kindergarten in the search box on facebook.**

It's much better for our Government funding if you can keep to your child's booked hours—thanks for your support on this one—every penny counts!

*Painting Files—all your child's named artwork is placed in their art file by the red gates daily by our two college student cleaners after school. Please check and clear regularly. Thanks.*

### Accident Register

Please sign the accident register when prompted on the daysheet. This lets you know about the small accidents your child has—of course in the case of a big accident we would be phoning you right away.

### Phone Numbers/Addresses

If you change your addresses and most importantly, your phone numbers, please let Arlene or Mary know in the office to ensure it's recorded here. We need to be able to contact you whenever we have your child in our care.

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### Absences

If your child is going to be away for any extended period, please also talk with Arlene or Mary as we have an 'absence form' that needs to be signed by you.

We will be closed for Queen's Birthday on Monday June 4th 2018.

The next Board meeting is on Tuesday May 22nd, 7pm here at kindergarten. All welcome. Policies currently up for review are Infectious Diseases/Pandemic, Excursions, Vision/Philosophy and Parent Needs and Aspirations. These are situated in the clearholder just inside the entrance door for you to add your thoughts/ideas. They will be passed at the Board meeting, so any feedback should come to either Mary or a Board member before the meeting.

## **A Matariki Pūrākau/Myth**

### **The Star Fishes**

Copied from the internet

One day a mother fish told her seven baby fish "Don't go out in the open sea today. The giant Tataraimaka is fishing. Be careful!" But the baby fish did not listen to their mother. They were busy playing tag and they got caught in the giant's net. The baby fish cried and cried and they made the sea salty. Tane, the God of light, felt sorry for the baby fish. He took them out of the net and he threw them into the sky. The baby fish turned into the seven stars of Matariki.



### *Matariki—the Maori New Year*

*We will be holding a celebration for Matariki in mid-Pipiri/June. Usually we hold an evening event, but this year we have decided to have a shared lunch.*

*Look out for notices about this in approximately two week's time. In the meantime, check out the Matariki stories in this newsletter. We are also engaging children at kindergarten in these stories. Sam and some of the older ones have drawn The Star Fishes into posters that tell this story—see the wall display of this.*

### **Our Kaiako Hannah's Children:**

Hannah's children Gloria, Amen and Taemen have organised a concert where they will be playing the piano and organ. This is being held on Saturday June 2nd at All Saint's Church, 30A Vanguard Street at 2pm.

Entry is by donation, with donations going to pay for their exam entry fees.

Everyone welcome.

# A Matariki Pūrākau/Myth

## Matariki and the Six Sisters (copied from the internet)

There are many legends about the star cluster Matariki. One of the most popular is that the star Matariki is the whaea (mother), surrounded by her six daughters, Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, Waipunarangi, Waitī and Waitā, and Ururangi. Matariki and her daughters journey across the sky each year to visit their tupuna wahine *wahine* great grandmother, Papatūānuku *Papatūānuku* Mother Earth.

During this visit, each of the stars help Papatūānuku to prepare for the year to come, using their unique qualities or gifts to bring mauri *mauri* life force or energy to her different environments. Whilst spending time with their kua *kua* grandmother, they also learn new skills and gain new knowledge from her, which they guard and pass on to others.

### **Tupu-ā-nuku**

Tupu-ā-nuku is the eldest of Matariki's daughters. Spends her time with Papatūānuku tending to plants. She pays special attention to making sure they have everything they need to grow big and strong so they can produce kaika *kaika* food, rongoā *rongoā* medicine, and kākahukā *kāhuka* clothing materials.

When we see her shining we are reminded that we all have our own special time and place, and to spend time growing our pūkenga *pūkenga* strengths, as well as that of our friends.

### **Tupu-ā-rangi**

Tupu-ā-rangi loves to sing. Papatūānuku takes her to sing for te wao nui *te wao nui* the great forests, and all the children of Tānemahuta. Her beautiful voice revives the forest and all the other creatures, including the manu, and mokomoko. They share their waiata, which fills the world with joy.

Tupu-ā-rangi learns these songs and holds them close to her heart. We learn from her the importance of sharing our gifts with others, and appreciating those shared with us.

### **Waipunarangi**

Waipunarangi accompanies her grandmother to the waters – the oceans, lakes and rivers – where she prepares the children of Tangaroa *Tangaroa* god of the sea to feed the people.

Papatūānuku also teaches her about how the water that spills down from Ranginui *Ranginui* the sky father collects together to provide drinking water for the people, animals and plants.

She also watches how the water is evaporated by the heat of Tama-nui-te-rā *Tama-nui-te-rā* the sun into the clouds that cloak Ranginui, so that may rain once again.

Waipunarangi knows that if you give to others, all that kindness will come right back to you, and it is this lesson that she shares with us.

### **Waitī and Waitā**

Waitī and Waitā are Matariki's twins. Papatūānuku knew that they would be able to care for the smallest and fastest of creatures – because they too know about being a team.

When insects work together, they can do amazing

things. Ngā pī *Ngā pī* bees *Ngā pī* bees, for example, pollinate all the flowers so that the plants grow, and we have air to breathe. Ngā pōpokoriki *Ngā pōpokoriki* ants build huge, complicated tunnel cities underneath the ground, and carry many times their body weight. When we see these two stars in the sky, we are encouraged to join in and support each other.

### **Ururangi**

Ururangi enjoys racing all of her sisters to get to her kua first. She claims the best spot on her grandmother's lap and wraps herself in her arms, settling in for her favourite stories. Her tenacity and excitement, along with the awhi *awhi* hug and her aroha *aroha* love, helps Papa to get into the right mood after the cold and darkness of takuru *takuru* winter, to prepare with her older mokopuna *mokopuna* grandchildren.

Ururangi reminds us that a good attitude is always key to success.

### **Matariki**

But what about Matariki you may ask? Well, she's doing what all good mothers (and other caregivers) do – watching over and helping out her tamariki *tamariki* children. With her support, encouragement, and supervision, they will be able to do their very best.

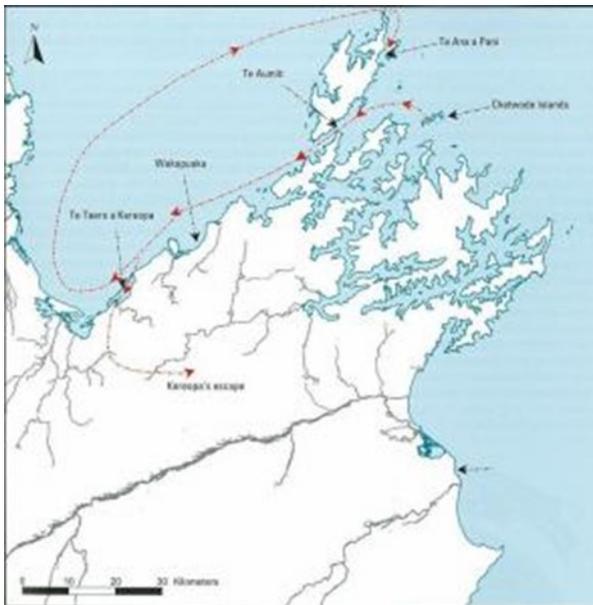
(At kindergarten we are telling an abridged, politically correct version of this story)

## Kupe and the Boulder Bank

The distinctive Boulder Bank protecting Nelson Haven, known to Māori as Te Taero o Kereopa or Te Tahuna a Tama-i-ea, was named to commemorate exploits during Kupe's visit to Aotearoa in about 350.

Kupe pursued a giant octopus, scourge of Kupe's fishing ground in Hawaiki, across the Pacific to Aotearoa, finally dispatching it at Whekenui Bay, Tory Channel. Before returning home Kupe visited Nuku-waiata to gather fish, shellfish, and birds for the long journey north. Two of Kupe's men, Pani and Kereopa, who wished to remain with tangata whenua, absconded in canoes after kidnapping Kupe's daughter.

Kupe's pursuit of Pani and Kereopa. From Mitchell H & J. Te Tau Ihu o Te waka v.1.(Topo data Eagle Technology & Linz and cartography Moira Jackson Assoc). Permission must be sought for further use of image.)



Nelson's Boulder Bank. Image courtesy Nelson City Council

Kupe launched his waka in hot pursuit, dashing through Aumiti and into Tasman Bay. The fugitives threw Kupe's daughter overboard, forcing him to divert to rescue her, prayed for currents, whirlpools and storms, and created reefs and rocky headlands. Nevertheless, Kupe's *Matahourua* steadily gained on them

until the runaways separated as they coasted towards Whakatu.

Kupe first pursued Kereopa who paddled towards the shore. Kereopa offered karakia, which caused boulders at the foot of Horoirangi<sup>1</sup> (**Mackay's Bluff**) to fall into the sea and create a barrier between his waka and the *Matahourua*. No matter how hard Kupe's crew paddled, Kereopa's boulder bank grew apace, and they could not outstrip it. Kereopa landed and fled inland.

Kupe then turned his attention to Pani who had circled back towards Rangitoto. Pani also invoked deities and taniwha to whip up storms and violent currents to impede Kupe, but without success. When Pani's party swung around the northern tip of Rangitoto into the passage between it and Takaporewa their canoe was overwhelmed in rips and all drowned. Kupe witnessed the tragedy and named the passage Nga Tai Whaka Hoki Hoki a Pani, or the wild seas which caused Pani's canoe to overturn, and now known as Hell's Gate. The overturned canoe became a rock formation named *Te Waka a Pani*; Pani's daughters became an unusual large split rock, *Nga Tamahine* (the daughters) *a Pani*, and his slave (*mokai*) also became a rock known as *Te Mokai a Pani*. In a cave nearby, *Te Ana a Pani*, Kupe trapped Pani's spirit forever; a loud moaning noise can be heard when tides surge into it - Pani's eternal grief over his downfall.

Kereopa escaped. His name is perpetuated in senior lines of **Ngati Kuia** and other South Island tribes; some southern Maori claim descent from Kereopa through his marriage to a Waitaha woman.<sup>2</sup> Many other features of Te Tau Ihu, especially in eastern parts, were named for events during Kupe's visit. Naming or renaming the landscape was a sign of taking possession in Maori tikanga. In 2013 the Boulder Bank was registered as a **historic area** by Heritage New Zealand. In 2014 the area was listed as a wahi tapu site by Nelson City Council.