

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

16 March 2011

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 /11

PLEASE RING US **BEFORE 9.00** IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT, **BEFORE 2.00** TO CHANGE HOME TRANSPORT PLANS.

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL - A NEW PTA? - STUDENT EXCELLENCE – COMMUNITY SCHOOL -
COMMUNITY NEWS – GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED ATTACK ON AREA SCHOOLS

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

This Fri 18 March students and staff are wearing Red & Black to coincide with the national day of mourning and donate a **gold coin for the emergency relief fund**. Our flag will be raised on Monday. We feel for the people of Japan in their terrible losses. It surely is a time to count our blessings.

Thank you for your excellent support for the Country Meal last Friday. It was heartening to see most tables full and so many school families supporting their students and the school. It was a very good night – thanks to the kapa haka group and the band, staff for the raffle, kitchen and serving work. **The Sports Complex Committee** does an excellent job and the nights run like clockwork. It's a great community asset. We were lucky to be able to fill the March slot vacated by Maungatapere School. Thank you to the Committee for inviting us to change from our usual October slot. We'll keep March!

Next week our Term 1 Community Newsletter (in colour!) goes out to the district on the mail run. If you miss out, copies will be available at the school and at the store.

YOUR VOICE, YOUR INVOLVEMENT – A NEW PTA

Last newsletter I invited you to let us know if you would like to have a say in current goals. The invitation is repeated below. In the meantime there has been good support for a way of doing this – **re-convening a Parent-Teacher Association, but with a difference!** The traditional PTA model is all about fundraising. Previous PTAs worked hard to raise money to help school resources and facilities. This is not the main function of modern PTAs, which are about **family engagement with the life of the school** – a means of getting together as a school community for fun and useful activities. You are invited to a **BBQ lunch by the pool this Saturday 11am-1pm** – flyers have already been sent home - please come along. There will be a short meeting afterwards to gauge support for the idea. If & when it gets off the ground, a teacher rep will join the group.

The BOT, as your representatives, have identified 4 charter goals for 2011-2013. The first two concern National Standards and improving Maori Achievement, as required by government. The second two concern student engagement with learning, and community engagement with the school to support student learning. We are keen to set up a **focus group, made up of people connected to the school, to look at our goals and plans**, think about them, ask questions and have your say. We could do this through a new PTA, face to face, by document exchange, or by an on-line site. **Your choice.** We need to complete the process by 31 March. **Please email admin@mangakahia.school.nz or ring the office to register your interest.**

WHAT IT MEANS TO AIM FOR EXCELLENCE - NO EXCUSES

Aiming for excellence in education means changing what isn't working for students, be it classroom programmes, teaching styles, student effort, family support, school atmosphere, or a combination of these things. It involves staff, students and families stepping outside comfort zones, grasping nettles, risking confrontation, changing opinions, and **believing that all this is worth it if their children succeed – lift their attendance, concentration and grades**, and take a full part in school life. The government all requires Boards of Trustees to implement two national priorities – reporting against National Standards and lifting Maori achievement, no ifs, no buts, no excuses. And for us, no problem!

At Mangakahia our aim for excellence saw us put aside misgivings about National Standards and get on with it – last year we adapted the good things we were already doing to include assessing and reporting Y1-8 achievement against the Standards. Y1-8 teachers completed training, applied it to existing systems and successfully implemented it. Many parents responded favourably to the reports, even if their children were

working towards the Standards rather than achieving at them. Another yardstick to measure by. **We have always prided ourselves on providing an equally good education for Maori and non-Maori students.** Maori students at Mangakahia have enjoyed much higher success at NCEA Level 2 and 3 compared to Maori students nationally. **However, their results compared to those of Mangakahia non-Maori students** have not been as high. We are talking here about the gap between 75% and 100%. That's no excuse. It should be 100% across the board. NCEA Level 1 is a challenge nationally and locally for Maori boys. That's got to change. **There is now 20 years' worth of research by Maori educators to show the way.** We have based our teaching on some of that research since 2004, and applied it to all students. It has certainly worked 100% for non-Maori students! We need to close the 25% gap for Maori students and lift NCEA Level 1 for all. Here's how.

In Term 4 last year we were one of 100 schools selected nationwide to take part in *He Kakano*, an intensive 3-year development programme led by internationally acclaimed Maori researcher Professor Russell Bishop of Waikato University. Working on the premise that ***one size fits one***, we are now researching our own students' needs and reviewing in greater depth our practices and the effect they have on all students and in particular Maori students. **The university has developed separate but similar surveys for Maori and non-Maori students.** We did trial surveys with Y7-10 last November. This term we are repeating the survey for all Y7-13. We will send copies home for families, publish the findings and engage them in the next steps. Every student, teacher, trustee and parent counts. **We have asked people connected to the school to help us through feedback** - watching what we are doing and responding, over a cuppa in the staffroom, on-line through our wikispace, or by document exchange. **You are welcome to do so even if not directly connected** to the school. Email admin@mangakahia.school or ring 4331-702 to register your interest. We'll call you back.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A COMMUNITY SCHOOL, MANGAKAHIA STYLE

MANGAKAHIA VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Our gift to the community that has supported us for over 100 years is a purpose built, on-site, community health & welfare centre featuring two private medical clinic & counselling rooms, reception lounge/office, children's play space, kitchenette & community group meeting room, its own carpark, signage, road frontage access. The centre will be able to host regular **doctor & nursing clinics, health provider clinics, family planning clinics, counselling services, WINZ, Housing NZ** on a roster basis, be a valuable appointments venue, and be staffed by a local 'heartland coordinator'. **By the end of this year Valley dwellers from Twin Bridges to Maungatapere should enjoy local access to free health & welfare services!**

2004 public health nurse Christina Edmonds (Poroti) published *The Forgotten Valley*, about area health needs.
2005 principal Anne Stead read the report, identified how the school could respond, and submitted a proposal for the Mangakahia Valley Community Health Centre to the School Wellness Team partnered by Manaia PHO. Four community meetings were held about the proposal. Consensus: this centre is needed, on school campus.
2006 a Project Committee (BOT, PHO, school & community reps) researched and rationalised original building stakeholder groups in abeyance eg Tennis Club, Scouts. Gained MSD support in principle for project.
2007 advertised & processed intent to convert Historic Building into Community Health Centre. Contract signed with MSD for \$50,000 seeding grant to manage project 2007-8. We began training for a 'Heartland coordinator'.
2008 Project Committee wound up lapsed hall committees, set up trust, gained support in principle from NDHB
2009 Mangakahia Charitable Trust registered, developed the application to ASB begun by Project Committee.
2010 ASB granted \$150,000 for building conversion/carpark costs. Tender awarded. Resource consent lodged.
2011 we are following up MSD, NDHB support in principle re: fitting out, maintenance, coordination, power etc.

A BRAND NEW BUILDING FOR OUR OWN TEEN PARENT SCHOOL

He Mataariki Teen Parent School is finally getting the new building promised us by the Ministry of Education in 2009. The Prime Minister John Key turned the first sod of this project on 21st October 2010. The plans are finalised and the tender is let. Building starts work later this term. Keys to the new building are due to be handed over in October. The Ministry is now working on the expansion of the early childhood centre next door to accommodate our growing roll. Mangakahia Area School took over the teen Parent Unit in August 2006 when it was on the brink of being closed. It has **several graduates now studying at university and polytech**, a notional roll of 35, an excellent ERO rating. For more info, ph **Senior Manager Terri Cunningham 4382-602.**

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be all about **STUDENT SUCCESS.** They have been very busy! In the meantime, please read p4 of this newsletter for **the government's alarming plans to get rid of area schools altogether.**

**Ka kite,
Anne Stead**

AN OPEN LETTER TO MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL FAMILIES & WHANAU

Dear MAS whanau and community

NZEI (primary) and PPTA (secondary) teacher union members would like to explain why the school closed for a half-day for a paid union meeting (ie in school time) on Friday 4 March.

Secondary and primary school teachers are on a separate contract to area school teachers. In recent negotiations the Ministry of Education offered area school teachers lower pay and much reduced working conditions than they offered secondary and primary colleagues.

This is grossly unfair. Teachers are teachers are teachers, whether in rural area schools or urban secondary & primary schools. Why should your child's equally well-qualified and hard-working teacher be paid less than town teachers? Does your child not deserve the best?

The Ministry's proposals would in effect undermine the 40 area schools nation-wide. Area schools are rural heartland schools, the pride of farming communities. Research shows area school student achievement at NCEA level is on a par with and often exceeds national norms. Area schools are small schools with a special character that gives students a good all-round education and opportunities for leadership, travel, sport and culture second to none.

Students in area schools will suffer if quality teachers choose to teach in urban schools where pay and conditions are better. Unless the Ministry improves its offer we need to take a stand. We are doing this for the students – as teachers we can choose to move, but our students can't. This is unjust. We would like to keep you well-informed. If you would like to know more, please contact us at school 4331-702 and leave a message. We'll get back to you.

Ka kite ano,

Elyne Semenoff Chair, PPTA branch

Kate Fenton, Chair, NZEI branch

ADMIN & COMMUNITY NEWS



ART & Craft Classes: If anyone is interested in resuming the Wednesday night art classes please contact Mandy at school 4331 702 or after hours 4331 812. Your interests will lead the focus of each class. Workshops throughout the year could have a specific technical/process focused emphasis e.g. woodcut and other printmaking practices, sculpture, painting, craft etc.

'Te Kura o Awarua' Community Mini Gala: Saturday 19th March 2011, 8am - 1pm, Old Awarua School, Mangakahia Rd. Contact: Joanne Kiro 4052214 or 0274384022. Entertainment - Unicycle competition and challenge: unicycles will be provided. Also ring to register a team of six players for Volleyball, a fun & sociable day for whanau. Cake Stall/ White Elephant/ Quick-fire raffles/ Kids activities, Kai and more.

Mangakahia Soccer Club: First practice Wednesday 30th March. Practices will be at Maungatapere School Field from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Girls and boys of all ages interested in playing soccer the 2011 season are encouraged to sign up. Children turning 5 before June 2011 can also play. All enquires please contact as soon as possible Penny Froggatt 434 7609 or Carla Bone 021 0243 4519 or email: mangakahiasoccer@gmail.com

Whangarei Swords Club: Do you want to try the sport out? If you are new to fencing, come along and have a go. Dress in track suit pants, t-shirt, and white soled sneakers, and bring along \$2.00. We have the rest of the gear for you to borrow, and coaches on hand to give lessons. Be prepared for a good workout though! The sport is excellent for cardio and hand/eye coordination. Fencing suits guys & girls equally well, as physical strength is not as important as speed, stamina, accuracy, style, & strategy! Tuesday 12 April, Advocate Stadium, Kensington 6.30pm-8.30pm is for new fencers. **Contacts** - David Moss Ph 09-438-4935 or e-mail: david@rosemanandwarren.co.nz, Attila Borzsony – Club Coach Ph 09- 459 4506 or e-mail: attila@igrin.co.nz



Calendar

18 March	Red and Black Day (gold coin donation)
28 March	Y7/8 Experiencing Marine Reserves trip to Reotahi
3 April	Daylight Saving Ends
15 April	Term 1 ends
2 May	Term 2 starts

**FREE
EASTER HOLIDAY
SURF PROGRAMME**

LEARN 2 SURF
Free Learn to Surf week at Sandy Bay,
Tutukaka with Surfaris Surf School

FUN, HEALTHY & ACTIVE
Surfing feeds the mind, body & soul

- Open to 11-17 year olds
- Morning & Afternoon surf sessions
- Week One 18th – 22nd April 2011
- Week Two 25th – 29th April 2011

Limited space, booking essential !!

surfaris surf school
www.surfaris.co.nz 09 4343843

Break-Away School Holiday Programmes | family & community services | Surfing New Zealand Approved Surf School

Whangarei Heads School

FUNKY

major prizes
GREAT

Fishing & Diving
Competition

Sunday
27
March
2011

● FAMILY DAY OUT
● FUNKY FRESH FISH AUCTION

Check our website for details: funkyfishing.co.nz

Ticket Prices ▶ Senior \$20 ▶ Junior \$5 ▶ Snapper Team Ticket \$20
Ticket Outlets ▶ GoGo Expresso ▶ Top Catch ▶ Stirling Sports ▶ The Deck ▶ Parua Bay Gas ▶ Taurikura Store