

LINK UP

TE WHAKAHONONGA
CONNECTING
TE KURA STUDENTS



E WHAKAHONO ANA I NGĀ
ĀKONGA O TE KURA ME Ō
RĀTOU WHĀNAU, HAPORI HOKI



KO TĀ TE RINA KŌRERO

**Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,
engari he toa takitini**

My success is not only my success,
but the success of many.

In this issue of **Link Up Te Whakahononga**, we celebrate the success of our ākonga. I cited this whakataukī at last year's prizegiving ceremonies because while we celebrate individual success at such events, we all know there are many people behind each of those successes – your whānau, your friends, your teachers, your kaimanaaki, kaiawhina and everyone else at Te Kura.

As the year has got underway Te Kura ākonga have also been enjoying success in the sporting arena.

There has been a lot of excitement over our first ever entry in the Maadi Secondary School Regatta.

The boys' coxed quad team not only made it to the final but won the silver medal. What an achievement for the crew, and, again, all those who supported them.

Congratulations are also in order for our Te Kura tennis team on their New Zealand Secondary Schools Championship win.

And you can read about ākonga Molly Te Kawa who has had fantastic success in jiu-jitsu.



This issue is our first that is solely online. It seems the right decision to move away from distributing a hard copy magazine given that we are an online school.

Also, in an age where postage has become increasingly expensive, we felt it was sensible to switch to an online version. We are still working on how this will ultimately look, but we expect rather than four printed magazines a year, we will be able to provide a much more dynamic and sustainable product.

Amid this change, I do want to assure you that **Link Up Te Whakahononga** will continue to represent the voice of our ākonga, in keeping with a tradition at Te Kura that goes back almost 100 years, when the first issue of our very first magazine, *The Postman*, was launched in 1928. After almost 80 years, *The Postman* was replaced by various student publications right up until this current version. For our first online issue, it's especially fitting that we should get off on the right foot, and what better way than to celebrate the achievements of our ākonga!

Ngā manaakitanga

Te Rina Leonard, Chief Executive

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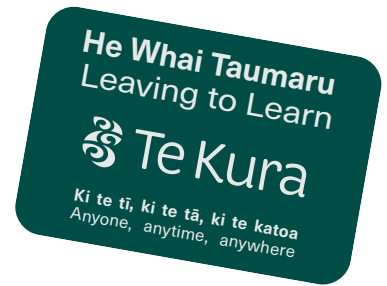
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Cover: Te Kura ākongā Kiritahi Te Kaawa with her certificate of appreciation from Paralympics New Zealand



**NGĀ KŌRERO
MOTUHAKE**

**FEATURE
STORIES**



MAKING HISTORY ON THE WATER

In March this year, eight Te Kura ākonga and their whānau embarked on a week-long journey to Twizel, competing at the Maadi Regatta on the majestic Lake Ruataniwha. Four of our ākonga went on to make history by winning silver in the boys' under-18 coxed squad – a first for Te Kura! Team co-manager Melissa Sattler tells us more.

'Despite it being only the school's second year participating in New Zealand's largest secondary school event, the team faced formidable opponents. Intermediate rowers Fynn Sattler and Silas Scott were unfortunately eliminated early on, contending with seasoned competitors – some in their fifth year of racing!

The weather conditions were harsh, with sunny days but freezing temperatures during the early morning races, challenging competitors with blue-numb fingers and burning lungs due to the high altitude.

Novice doubles Charlie Etherington, Connagh McCormack, Logan Lands, and Ashton Scott made it to the B final, securing third and sixth positions. The under-18 novice coxed quad, led by Jacob Trillo, Connagh McCormack, Logan Lands, Charlie Etherington, and coxed by Molly Sattler, showcased a brilliant performance in the heats, earning them a spot in the A Final.

Despite Jacob's illness preventing him from competing in the final, Ashton Scott stepped in, aiding the team in securing a silver medal, narrowly missing the gold by



Photo Copyright © Dave Mills Photography

seconds. This accomplishment marked a significant milestone for our Te Kura ākonga and their whānau, showcasing their resilience in overcoming organisational and financial hurdles to participate in the regatta.

Our ākonga were pushed not only physically, but emotionally. Bonds forged within the team are enduring, and the experience has left a profound impact on all involved. Rowing is indeed an incredible sport, and for anyone eager to explore rowing or coxing, feel free to contact me, and I'll gladly connect you with your local rowing club.'

Interested in rowing?

Email Melissa Sattler
lissandlinz.sattler@gmail.com
or contact your kaimanaaki to find out more.





BUILDING COMMUNITY, CONFIDENCE, AND FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH JIU-JITSU

Te Kura ākonga Molly Te Kawa has achieved some amazing results both on and off the mat – and still finds time for schoolwork!

Molly joined Te Kura after finding that the only face-to-face school in her town didn't suit her learning style. Molly says that her favourite thing about Te Kura is the flexibility.

'You get to learn what you want to learn.'

Molly became interested in jiu-jitsu as both of her parents do it and have opened a gym in Queenstown.

'I found that I really enjoyed helping kids and learning techniques.'

Every day is different for Molly, with her own training, breaks for Te Kura schoolwork, and then more training or coaching – a schedule that

can see her in the gym until 8:30pm at night.

Last year Molly began competing seriously, starting with events close to home. She then started competing in Australia, taking second and third in the New South Wales State Championships. This led to further success, with first place in the Autumn Cup and second place in the Victoria State Championships. Next, she came in second in Gi and first in No Gi at the Australian Nationals. Most recently, she took second place in New Zealand Gi Nationals and gained a bronze, a silver and two golds at the PanPac Games in Melbourne.

Molly has some great advice for rangatahi who want to get into jiu-jitsu.

'If you want to gain confidence and learn a fighting art, find a club and give it a go.'

Molly and her whānau say the sport creates community, confidence, and friendships.

'It's for everyone and everybody, and it is wonderful for mental health.'



CELEBRATING ĀKONGA SUCCESS 2023

It was wonderful to celebrate with ākonga, whānau and kaimahi at the regional **Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu Te Rā Whakanui i te Angitū o ngā Ākonga**. These events are a special way to honour ākonga success and acknowledge the great mahi happening in our Te Kura community.

In 2023 there were 22 ceremonies across the motu. Congratulations to all of our prizewinners!



Claudia Gregory



Edie Moore



Dylan Lotz with kaiako Guru Kumar



Kaylee Lafitte with kaiako Sue Ryan



Rita Hodson



Armstrong Osborne



Amie Donald with kaiako Lauren O'Sullivan

Celebrating Ākonga Success 2023

This year we have put together an online booklet with a list of Te Kura awards and recipients.

[Celebrating Ākonga Success 2023](#)

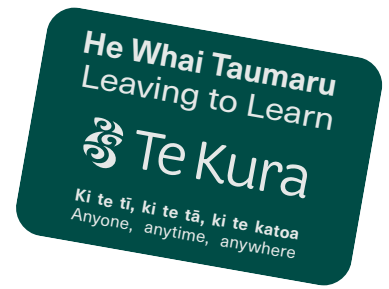
This separate PDF, which is located on our website, has a list of cross-school and regional award winners for 2023.

We welcome your feedback – if you find any errors, please email linkup@tekura.school.nz.



NGĀ KŌRERO
Ā NGĀ ĀKONGA

STUDENT
STORIES



SUPPORTING MY ROLE MODEL TO REACH A GOAL

Kiritahi Te Kaawa has been following the athletics career of Lisa Adams in para shot put since 2021, when she won the gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics. For the past two years Lisa has been an instrumental part of Kiritahi’s Te Kura learning programme, offering mentorship and support.



Kiritahi received a certificate from Paralympics New Zealand for her outstanding fundraising efforts

Kiritahi wanted to support Lisa when she found out that Paralympics New Zealand is a charity and relies on donations. She decided to do some fundraising, and raised \$1000 by selling cupcakes, cake auctions, raffles and by organising a hangi, all within her small rural community in Ruatahuna.

Kiritahi was recently awarded a special certificate and was personally thanked by the Chief Executive of Paralympics New Zealand for her fundraising efforts. She knows that her contribution will support our Paralympians to achieve success at the Paris Paralympics later this year.

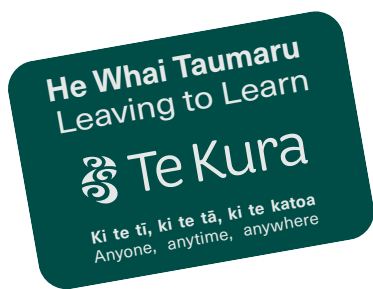
Her mahi has also started the conversation around disability and inclusion in sports amongst her peers, and she views Lisa as a role model.

‘Lisa has been such an inspiration to me, she is very kind, she always makes time to catch up with me while showing a genuine interest in how my schoolwork is going and my goals. I wish Lisa all the best on her retirement from athletics.’

Kiritahi’s whānau agrees that Lisa is an outstanding athlete and person, and they are pleased that Kiritahi has formed such a positive connection with her.



Te Kura kaiako Hayley Bregmen and Kiritahi presenting the \$1000 raised to Lisa Adams



AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEK

By Neve Upston

In March, schools from across the country competed for the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Championship trophy in tennis. Lavie Academy, in partnership with Te Kura, formed a team of six players from Years 9 and 10. Liam Youn, Luke Gibbons, Paxton Maling, Damien Mardanus-Budiono, Neve Upston, and Jacques Rupe triumphed in the pool stage, and secured victory in the semi-finals before taking the Championship title in the finals. Neve shares his experience over that week.

'This is the second tennis event where I have represented Te Kura. Schools was such a better event than I thought it would be, meeting friends, making new ones, and playing tennis. The first day started off with a bang, with a 4–2 win over Kings College, and a 4–0 win in singles against ACG. The next day handed me my first loss in doubles, and also my last match. The team played a super tight tie against Christ College. With the Te Kura boys performing superbly and winning the tie with countback. Winning the pool, we moved on to Auckland Grammar the next day.

The first two matches were absolute nail biters, with one of them getting very, very feisty. We unfortunately lost that match 14–12 in the super. Disappointing, but a great lesson to learn from. The tie was now 1–1, with the top two players in our team going on court. Then came another two blockbuster matches,

one of which we won, and one of which we lost. It now came down to doubles. Both teams won so we were in the finals, again against Christ College.

Finals morning was tense, you could feel it in the air. When the matches rolled around though, we absolutely steamrolled through them, with wins like 6–1 6–0 and 6–1 6–1. We ended up losing one match in the singles to make the tie 3–1 to Te Kura. In the afternoon, doubles started. We fought our hardest, one of our teams ended up winning, and the other team ended up losing. Which still meant we won the tie, and the tournament!

A super proud moment for everyone. What a week it was – a week I'll never forget!

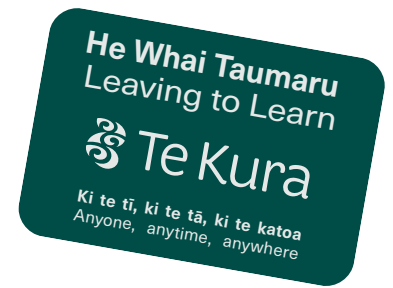
I just want to thank Riki, Seb, Tewis, Hernan, Tabi and Lucas for supporting us through this journey. You helped us a lot, and we couldn't have won without you.'



Te Kura NZSS Championship team

Back row: Liam Youn, Luke Gibbons, Paxton Maling
Front row: Jacques Rupe, Damien Mardanus-Budiono, Neve Upston

Photo credit: Sebastian Lavie



NATURE’S CLASSROOM – A CELEBRATION OF OUTSIDE PLAY AND LEARNING

Ko te whakatipuranga tēnei o te mana rangahau, me ngā mātauranga katoa e pā ana ki te aotūroa me te taiao – the child learns through active exploration of the environment.

– Te Whāriki

When tamariki spend time outdoors, there are endless opportunities to learn from, and alongside, nature. Through exploration, they discover different ways to be creative and expressive, learn about themselves, sustainability, the world, and their place in it – strengthening the connection between themselves and the natural environment.

Ko au te taiao ko te taiao, ko au – I am nature, and nature is me.

The stories shared by whānau in Te Ara Kōhungahunga, our early childhood programme, reflect how opportunities to interact with nature evoke curiosity, creativity, innovative thinking and a sense of connectedness to te taiao.

Our Small World Zoo

Active outdoor explorer Blake makes discoveries and explores different ways to be creative and expressive in his play with his sister Rosie. With innovative thinking, problem solving and resourcefulness, together they created their Small World Zoo.



Whānau voice:

'Blake is pretty lucky to have a big sister who comes up with cool play ideas! They worked away together creating a small zoo. His sister, Rosie, worked on making the fences, carefully constructing them with sticks and ropes. Blake laid out the animals and made some more dividing pens ... and then fed the tigers 'meat' with the tongs! 'Quick Blake, get out of the tiger's pen!'

Being outdoors provides a place for us to all soak up the positive benefits of nature. It's the perfect place to reset, calm our minds and bodies and create amazing learning opportunities.'

– Helen, Te Māmā o Blake, age 3



Tristyn – a can-do, confident contributor!

With can-do confidence, ākonga Tristyn is an active outdoor learner who appreciates that her contributions are valued.

Kitted out with her own chainsaw and safety gear, Tristyn helped ring up, split and stack the firewood in preparation for the winter ahead, and made some nature discoveries along the way – look at that grub! Tristyn is empowered by her family to have equitable opportunities to be involved, contribute and take on new challenges.

Ākonga voice:

‘I like being able to use my chainsaw to cut the wood. I like being able to be helpful. When I’m involved and trying new things, I feel happy, good and excited. I like being outside.’

Whānau voice:

‘For me, it’s important to provide opportunities for Tristyn and her older siblings to learn skills that will set them up well for later in life, and that Tristyn can help as often as she likes, even if the job or task will take longer. It all supports developing a strong work ethic and sense of self, while learning valuable life skills.’

– Blaire, Te Māmā o Tristyn, age 4





Making discoveries with her brothers at Waiinu Beach, then home to investigate her treasures

Ashlea – an explorer of nature

From awa to moana, Ashlea uses all her senses to actively explore, generate and refine her knowledge, developing critical and creative thinking dispositions that empower her as a learner. Ashlea is building scientific thinking and inquiry skills, making discoveries and observations through play.

Ashlea is an independent learner who explores her own interests. She joins her older brothers at their homeschool House of Science group, where she can build on her own theories about the world around her. This time, they used nets to find creatures in the river - then learned how to tell how healthy the water was and what affects water quality. Ashlea then took an active role in creating this river collage with her brothers.

Ākongā voice:

'At the river, I like seeing the ducks, finding different bugs and then drawing them.'



Whānau voice:

'Ashlea learns alongside her older siblings and loves joining in, learning and doing all the experiments with the other kids. Usually, the following weeks we will continue to learn more on the topic.

As a homeschool mum, and living rural we spent a lot of time outside exploring the environment around us and putting importance on caring for our land. I also find that exploring outdoors teaches valuable life skills and makes them appreciate what we have.'

– Julie, Te Māmā o Ashlea, age 5



'I love going to the beach to find things because they are so cool. I have a collection of shells from different beaches. I have a rock with different fossils in it, and pumice which is so light.'



TE ARA KŌHUNGAHUNGA

Early childhood education at Te Kura – a free distance programme to support learning at home in the early years.

We currently have spaces available for eligible tamariki aged between two and six years old.

Phone 0800 65 99 88 or visit our website: www.tekura.school.nz/early-childhood/

Poipoia te kākano kia puawai – nurture the seed and it will grow

This summer, ākonga Leah and Timoci have been nurturing their new flower and vegetable māra (gardens). With their whānau, they are on a learning journey, discovering ways to create a sustainable lifestyle where they can grow and harvest their own kai. Leah and Timoci are learning about sustainability and how they can be kaitiaki - guardians of their environment.

Whānau voice:

‘As first-time gardeners there has been lots of learning for the whole family. Leah and Timoci have been so excited to see the seeds they have nurtured grow under their care, developing a connection with the earth and how they can make positive contributions to it. And, when garden predators have eaten our crops, we have created ways to protect our plants which have created important problem-solving learning for us all. We have also been talking about how everything in nature works together, which is why creating a bee-friendly environment is important for our crops.’

– Kerry, Te Māmā o Leah, age 5, and Timoci, age 3

Ākonga voice:

‘This summer we have been busy in the garden. We planted our Te Kura sunflower seeds that were sent to us by our kaiako. The first sunflowers were eaten by slugs in the night so through trial and error we grew seeds in containers first and then transferred the seedlings into the garden. We watched their growth and finally they got big and strong. We have also planted our 5+ A Day beetroot seeds as well as some other vegetables and are really enjoying caring for our new garden and learning all about how our kai grows.’





Reinstating natives – one seed at a time!

Whānau voice:

'As part of the Mt. Nicholas Environmental Group project to reinstate natives, Oskar and his whānau have been raising and planting kōwhai seedlings. Oskar and his siblings source seeds from the beach where they wash ashore naturally. They then rub them with sandpaper and soak them for planting.

Oskar then helps plant the seeds in small paper pots where they germinate inside beside a window. When they reach 15 centimetres in height Oskar repots them into seedling bags and moves them outside. After 12 months they are relocated to their final home where they grow into trees, a few hundred metres from where the seeds first washed up.'

– Dave, Te Pāpā o Oskar, age 4





**NGĀ MAHI Ā
NGĀ ĀKONGA**

**STUDENT
WORK**

NCEA ART PORTFOLIOS 2023

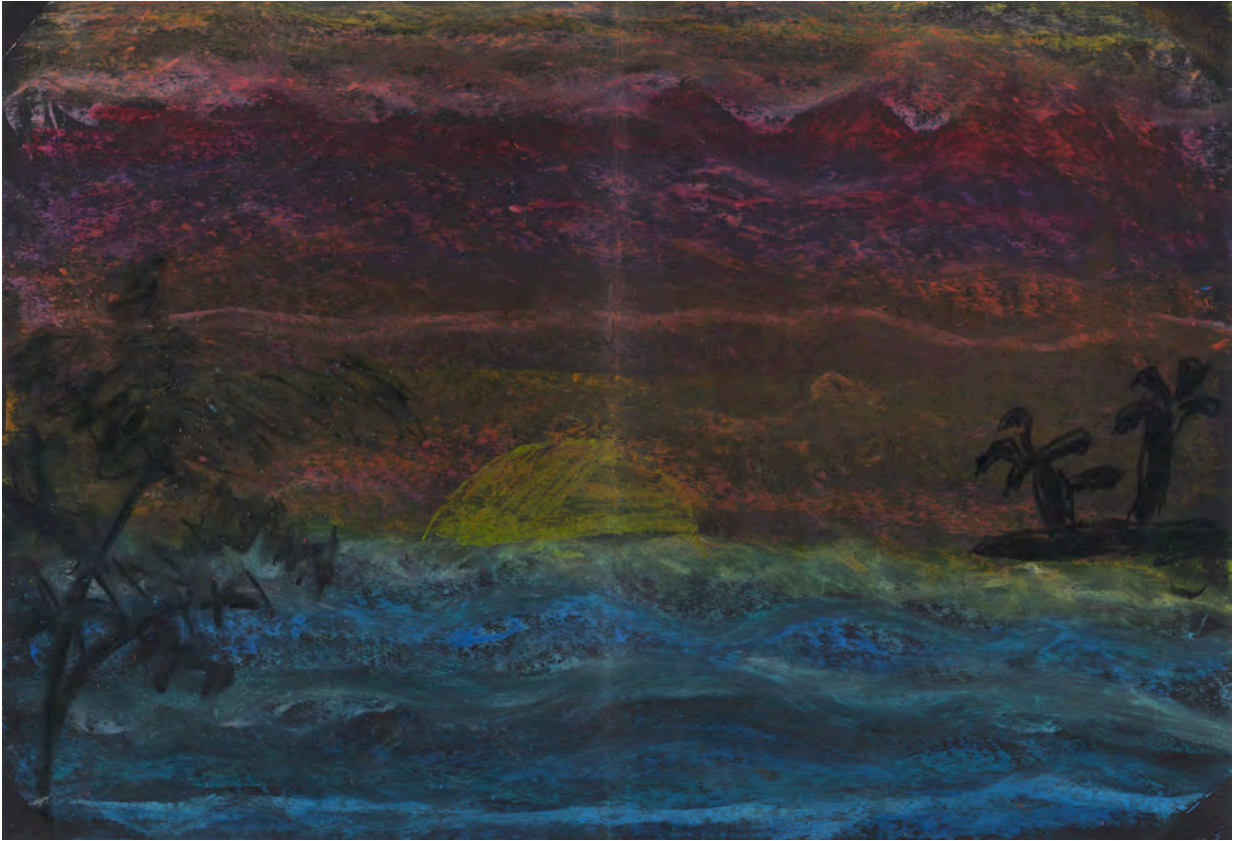
 @tekura_visart



Amelia Lewis NCEA Level 3



Bella Pilgrim NCEA Level 2



Pastel Sunset by Brax Giles, Year 6

MY FAVOURITE ROOM

by Jade Leopard, Year 8

It is a small space, but it's my favourite place! My caravan is always changing places, that's why I like it.

I can hear the faint distant hum of the fridge, whirring to keep our food cold, nearly drowned out by the loud generator. As the vegetables get chopped and the pan roars to life the caravan is filled with noise.

I smell the dish soap from the newly clean dishes, ready for the next meal. The bathroom soap floats around on everyone's hands, like perfume. The smell of coffee lingers through the furniture as the small grinded beans spread faster than fire, almost unnoticed.

As I look around, I first see the triple bunks stacked not quite evenly on top of each other. Next, I turn to the short dark bench, cluttered with the usual water bottles and dinner preparation. Holding the furniture together are white walls covered with fingerprints. The lights that cover the ceiling cast light and shadows across the interior of the caravan.

I feel the warm couch or the soft squishy blankets on top of my bunk. As I stand up, I feel the cold floor as I race over to a mat to keep my feet warm. I can also feel the hot breath of my family sailing past me, like an unventilated room.

I like this place because it makes me feel safe and happy. I like being close to my family and feel happy travelling from place to place!



**NGĀ PITOPITO
KŌRERO Ā
TE KURA**

TE KURA NEWS

A WARM WELCOME TO PUTI GARDINER

We are delighted to announce that Puti Gardiner has joined Te Kura in the position of Deputy Chief Executive, Learning Delivery.

Striving for equity in education has always been a priority and the driver for Puti’s involvement in teaching and learning. Her experience as a teacher, a principal, a PLD facilitator and a Leadership Advisor for beginning principals led to her joining the Ministry of Education in her previous role as National Manager Curriculum Leadership.

We were glad to have Puti join us at the start of Term 1.

Main photo: Chief Executive Te Rina Leonard welcomed DCE Learning Delivery Puti Gardiner during her pōwhiri in Te Whanganui-a-Tara

OPENING OF OUR NEW TARI IN TE WAIROA, INVERCARGILL AND QUEENSTOWN

The official opening of our new Te Wairoa tari (office) was a lovely occasion – with a very proud team of Te Kura ākongā, whānau and kaimahi in attendance!

Meanwhile, the sun shone brightly for the opening of our new tari in Waihōpai (Invercargill). Chief Executive Te Rina Leonard and Waihōpai kaimahi lined up for the Southland Times, on hand to capture what Te Rina called a ‘new beginning’.

The tari with the best scenery was the consensus at the opening of Te Kura’s newest office. Te Rina said the Tāhuna (Queenstown) tari would be able to help provide the awhi, aroha and manaaki that ākongā need to succeed.



Te Rina Leonard with Tāhuna kaimahi (from left) Victoria Wilkinson (based in Alexandra) Phil Burgess (Clyde) and Jo Mullenger, currently the only kaiako in the new Tāhuna tari



Waihōpai kaimahi (from left) Tracy Pasco, Katrina Grice, Te Rina, Erin Parkes and Jenna Johnstone



Celebrating our new Te Wairoa tari (from left) Kiwa Hammond, Trudy Harrison, Roberta Tipuna, Sharn Down, Puti Gardiner, Regan Dooley, Margaret Goldsmith, Ray Edwards, Michelle Coles, Rebecca Everson, Czhaay Hau

NCEA CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to all Te Kura ākonga (students) awarded NCEA or UE in 2023. You can now order a free certificate and/or an updated Record of Achievement via your NZQA student login: www.nzqa.govt.nz/login

How to register for external standards

If you are enrolled in NCEA courses this year and wish to register for externally assessed standards, keep an eye out for the instructions that will be emailed to you (or to your supervisor) from early June 2024.

Externally assessed standards include:

- End of year NCEA and NZ Scholarship exams in November
- Portfolio/report submissions for Design & Visual Communications, Technology and Visual Arts
- Digital submissions
- Levels 2/3 Digital Technologies Common Assessment Task (DCAT) in mid-October
- Level 1 Te Ao Haka Common Assessment Activity in early September.



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS

Applications now open

If you have a physical, medical, or learning disability, you may be eligible for assistance with your NCEA assessments. This is known as Special Assessment Conditions (SAC).

SAC exists to ensure all ākonga can demonstrate their full potential, and includes things like:

- being allowed to have someone read or write for you if you have dyslexia
- sitting your exams in a separate room if you have attention problems or severe anxiety
- extra time to complete a timed assessment if you have a slow writing speed.

For more information about SAC, check out our website:

www.tekura.school.nz/special-assessment-conditions

If you think you are eligible, please email our SAC team at sac@tekura.school.nz as soon as possible.



White Anemones by Amanda Cronwright

 [@amandacronwrightartist](https://www.instagram.com/amandacronwrightartist)

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