



Tauhei Combined School

Pono Rawe Whakaiti Pai Whakaaro
Honesty Excellence Respect Open Minded
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24.11.2025

The Pukemokemoke Trust

Gratitude for Financial Support and Overview of the Tauhei Bush School Program

Dear Members of the Pukemokemoke Trust,

On behalf of the students and staff of Tauhei Combined School, we extend our sincere gratitude for your continued financial support, which is vital to the ongoing success of our Bush School Program. This initiative allows us to develop "successful learners who strive to Aspire, Contribute and Grow" through hands on, contextualized learning experiences for our rural children.

The Tauhei Bush School is designed to support the children's next steps and have a strong emphasis on raising all children's self-esteem and independence. The program takes place every Friday during Term 1 and Term 4 at the Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve.

The fundamental purpose of the bush school is so that children can learn to manage risks, gain more independent in guiding their own learning, and experience the outdoors through direct, meaningful play within the native bush. We believe teaching students how to think, how to learn, and how to persevere in the face of challenges, is crucial for a lifetime of learning.

Through the program, students engage in diverse structured and unstructured activities that utilize the unique resources of the Pukemokemoke Reserve:

- **Survival and Practical Skills:** Students participate in challenges such as shelter building (bivvies) to designing systems for water collection to capture rainwater, an important survival skill. In Term 4, students were also assigned to groups to carry out bush rescues, requiring them to make a gurney to transport an "injured" classmate.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Promoting environmental awareness is a core principle of the Tauhei Bush School. Children are taught about respect and responsibility for the world around them and encouraged to aware of conservation issues of the woodland.
- **Integrated Learning:** Activities connect directly to the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC). These include Nature Scavenger Hunts, Nature Art Tasks where they create art using materials found in the bush, and observational writing tasks where they use magnifying glasses to explore plant life.

[For your enjoyment and insight into the program's impact, we have included a link to videos/Photos featuring students sharing their favourite parts of the Bush School Program.](#)

We look forward to continuing our partnership in environmental stewardship and education at Pukemokemoke.

Sincerely,

Gareth Haman
Principal