

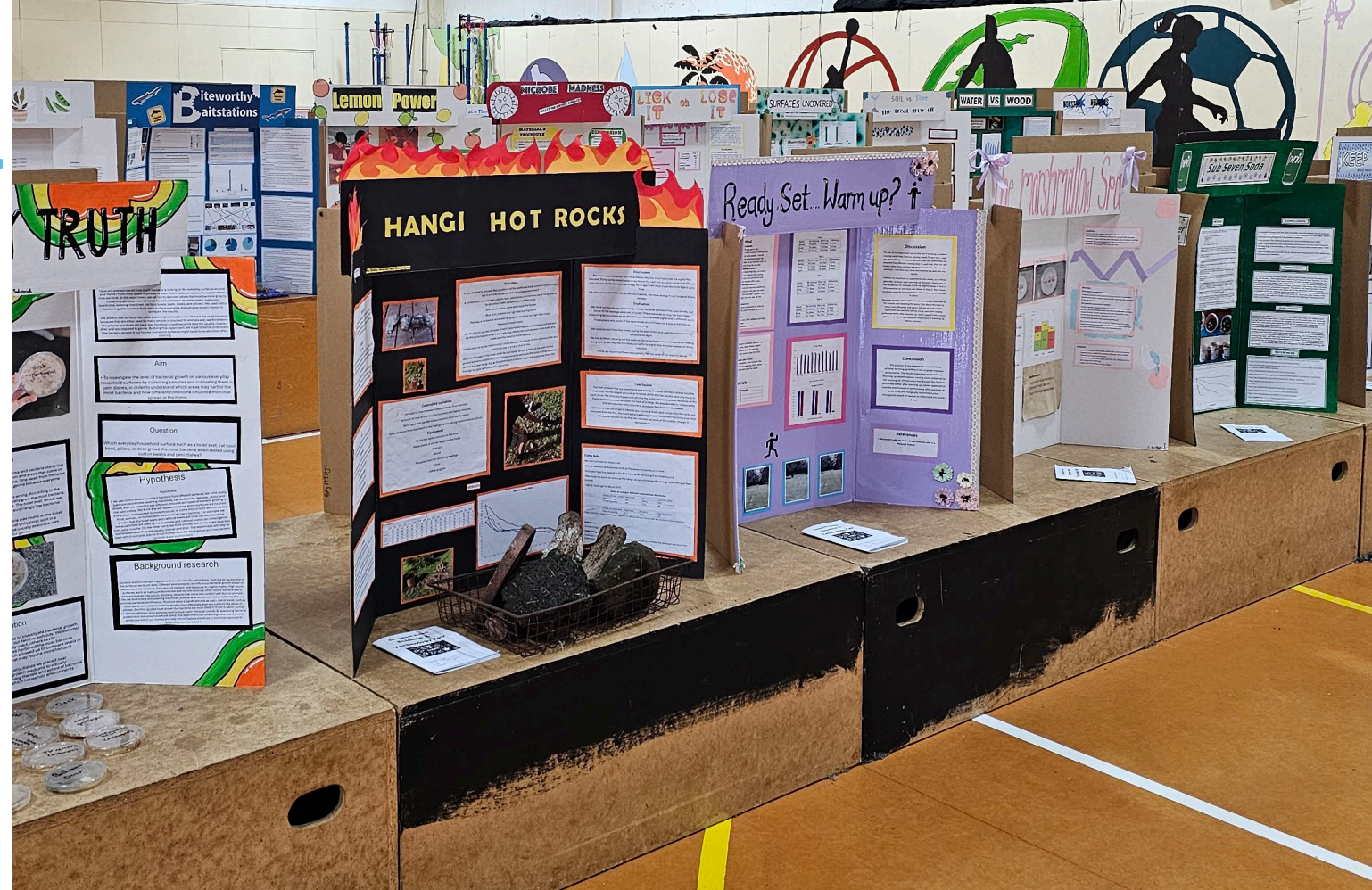


# SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

*Developing*

# Capability Character Confidence

*in an exceptional educational environment.*



## Newsletter No. 7 | July 2025

Dear Springbank families,

We are only three weeks in, but Term Three is already off to a flying start!

A highlight has been our senior careers trip to Auckland and the Waikato; a rewarding experience that opened students' eyes to a range of future pathways. A big thank you to Michelle Chapman for her superb organisation, and to Andrea Druery, Mark Epley, and Charne Pretorius for their energy, enthusiasm, and impressive van-driving skills around Auckland! You'll find more details about the trip later in this newsletter.

Another July highlight has been our Middle and Senior School Speech Finals. Congratulations to all our students for their thoughtful writing and confident performances. Public speaking is a valuable life skill, and we are proud to see it so strongly embedded in our English programme.

We also recently held our Cambridge Information Afternoon and Subject Selection Presentation. If you missed it, the slides will be made available shortly.

### Cambridge at Springbank: Evolving for Excellence

At Springbank, academic excellence is at the heart of what we do. That's why we continue to offer the internationally respected Cambridge International Curriculum (CIE), a programme known for its strong academic rigour, global recognition, and clear progression pathways.

Compared to New Zealand's national qualification system (NCEA), Cambridge offers greater consistency and depth, preparing students well for both local and international university study. It challenges learners to think critically, master content, and perform confidently under pressure.

*Continues next page* →



## Principal Welcome continues ...

But even the best systems benefit from reflection and refinement. After careful consultation with our staff and other Cambridge schools across New Zealand, we are excited to announce several enhancements to how we deliver the Cambridge programme, starting in 2026.

### **What's Changing in 2026?**

We are making a few key adjustments to our core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science to strengthen learning. The structure of the Options subjects remain unchanged.

#### Year 9

Students will begin the first year of their IGCSE studies in English, Core Mathematics, and Core Science, bringing forward content previously taught in Year 10.

We will also discontinue the Year 9 Cambridge Checkpoint exams, freeing up valuable time for deeper, more relevant learning.

#### Year 10

Students will sit external IGCSE exams in:

- English
- Mathematics (Core)
- Combined Science (Core)

They will also choose three option subjects and complete NZQA Literacy and Numeracy assessments, ensuring they meet these national requirements early.

#### Year 11

Students will:

- Progress to IGCSE Extended Mathematics
- Study Coordinated Science (Extended) – earning a double award
- Begin a two-year AS English Language programme

These changes reflect our commitment to depth and breadth, ensuring students build strong foundations early, gain confidence in assessments, and are well-prepared for success in senior Cambridge qualifications.

We know the Cambridge pathway is rigorous, but it is most rewarding. With these carefully considered changes, we are confident our students will continue to thrive in a learning environment that supports both challenge and success.



**Cambridge Assessment  
International Education**

Cambridge International School





Dates & Events to Note:

- **Fun Football Festival** – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August
- **Art Competition (school gym)** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August
- **Australian Maths Competition** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August
- **NSSS Mixed Futsal Festival** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August
- **Northland Mathex Competition** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August
- **Blake Inspire VR Programme (Years 5-8)** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August
- **Year 7 & 8 Netball Finals** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August
- **YES Trade Fair at the Packhouse Market** – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August
- **NZ Playhouse** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August
- **Regional Science Fair (Turner Centre)** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Springbank Sports Uniforms

As winter sports start to slowly come to a close for netball and hockey, as soon as your season has finished, please return your sport t-shirt or netball dress to the office, so a stocktake can be done.

Thank you.

Our Kids Online – Parent Evening, everyone welcome to attend

Please join us for an informative and empowering talk about keeping our children safe online with Rob Cope from Our Kids Online <https://www.ourkidsonline.info/>

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 6:30pm in the school gym

Part of Rob's visit, includes the parents evening, modules for students, detailed resources for teachers and as well as access for parents and caregivers to 12 months of resources.

Rob and his wife Zareen are passionate about equipping families with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world safely, empowering communities to protect and support the next generation.



## Middle & Senior School Speeches

On 21st July, our Middle & Senior School Speech Finals were held.

Students from Years 7-12 were asked to write and then deliver a 3-minute speech to their class, about a topic that inspires or interests them. From there, three finalists from each year level are chosen to present their speech again to the school.

Our 17 finalists presented fantastic, entertaining, and thought-provoking speeches covering a range of topics from 'Wanting to be a billionaire', 'Bananas', 'What does it mean to be human', 'How to annoy your Mum', and even a speech about chickens.

School speeches are an important part of the Springbank School curriculum because they develop communication skills, boost confidence, and foster critical thinking.

We would like to congratulate all our finalists on a successful speech finals day, and special congratulations goes to the following students on their 1st place speeches:

- Year 7 – Hannah Shepherd
- Year 8 – Fay Stirling
- Year 9 – Ruby Simpson
- Year 10 – James Dwyer
- Year 11 – Toni Warren
- Year 12 – Sean Heath
- Speaker of the Day Middle School – Hannah Shepherd
- Speaker of the Day Senior School – Sean Heath



Thank you to our judges this year, who helped adjudicate and award the best speech and overall speech awards to our students.

Year 7-9 was judged by one of our past students and Head Boy of 2018, Max Hittle, alongside our treasured librarian Ms Hatherly, and Year 10-12 was judged by Janna Sicely who has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the performing arts.



## Year 9 Community Projects

As part of their Future Studies class, students in Year 9 must complete a Community Project. The project must support or benefit a charity or community group, and students are required to create a plan and implement it to help fundraise money and/or resources for their project. Community projects are an excellent aspect of the Future Studies curriculum, as it encourages students to connect with their community and develop organisational, communication, and problem-solving skills.

This year, Year 9 are supporting the following charities and groups in their area:

### Pakaraka Hall

Isabella Morris has identified that the Pakaraka Hall needs significant renovations, from the roof leaking to the weather boards rotting. With a goal of \$15,000, Isabella has so far organised a successful fundraiser with a High Tea for the Pakaraka Community. She has also sold burgers at The Packhouse Market one Saturday. The fundraising total to date is \$3,500. Way to go, Isabella!

### Kerikeri Retirement Village

After the success of a previous Year 9 team in building a vegetable garden for the retirement village and the pleasure it has brought the residents, Addie, Mila, and Ramneet are following in their footsteps to build another raised garden, this time as a flower bed. They have already held a bake sale and are well on the way to make this project a reality.

### Waitangi Mountain Bike Park

This charity is popular with our students, as it provides an awesome resource for our youth. Jacob, Ruby, Neo, and Sidhesh have already run a sausage sizzle to raise funds to build a jump and have another fundraiser up their sleeve to be successful in their mission to give back. Stay tuned to see where this project leads.

### Springbank School Running Track

Zeke wants to complete a project close to home and of benefit to his fellow students. He is going to produce professional signage for the school running track, so everyone, especially new students, parents, and visitors, can make the most of their fitness time and routines. Problem solving is right up Zeke's alley.

### Waitangi Mountain Bike Park

Finn, Marco, George, and Alex are volunteering at the Waitangi Mountain Bike Park for their community project. They have already conducted one working bee, helping to shovel loose rocks from the ump track. This project is an annual job for the park as it takes about 5 days to complete. The students will also be fundraising to purchase wood for the new skills track. Keep an eye out for upcoming fundraisers.

### Paihia Scout Den

As a committed and passionate scout, Talia identified the Paihia Scout Den as requiring some much-needed love. She approached Paihia businesses and has organised a raffle to raise funds for the work to be completed. She has recruited the other scouts to help sell tickets, as she has set herself a challenging fundraising target. If you have not yet got your tickets, see Talia 😊

### Project Island Song

Isa, Lola, Isa, and Shanika have chosen to fundraise to purchase long-range walkie talkies and rainproof overcoats identified as needed by the Project Island Song staff, to improve the safety of the employees and volunteers. They chose this organisation as they are interested in the environment and want to make an impact on an organisation that is making a difference. By completing their project, their proposal will give Project Island Song better health and safety and decrease the safety risks of their organisation. To complete the project, they will be fundraising in the future.





## Year 11-13 Careers Trip

During Week Two of this term, our Year 11 – 13 students had the opportunity to travel down to Auckland and Hamilton as part of Springbank School's annual Careers Trip. The Careers Trip was a valuable experience for our senior students to be involved with.

Many of them have now either cemented their career pathways, have identified potential areas to investigate further, or had their eyes opened to the world of possibilities in future study or careers post Springbank School. Of course, there was lots of fun had as well!

Organisations visited:

- AUT North Shore
- AUT Millenium
- Massey University
- Air New Zealand
- Foodstuffs
- Airport Emergency Services
- Maritime Police
- Navy Base
- Auckland University
- Waikato University
- Media Design School
- Whitecliffe School of Design



Students who went on the trip have said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience as it, "Gave them an insight to independent living", "Opened their eyes to what is available beyond school", "Really enjoyed the opportunity to visit a wide range of companies" and "Helped me understand what subjects I need to focus on, for my choice of career".

Thanks to the Friends of Springbank for their financial contribution; it was much appreciated. Also, a big thanks to the amazing staff that attended and made the experience possible; Mrs Hallowes, Mr Epley, Mrs Druery, and Mrs Pretorius – you rock!

– Michelle Chapman






## The BEAST

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 40 students from Year 7 to 10 took part in The BEAST. The event was at a new location this year, and the clean students that boarded the bus in the morning returned to school in the afternoon covered head toe in mud, which means they had a great time!

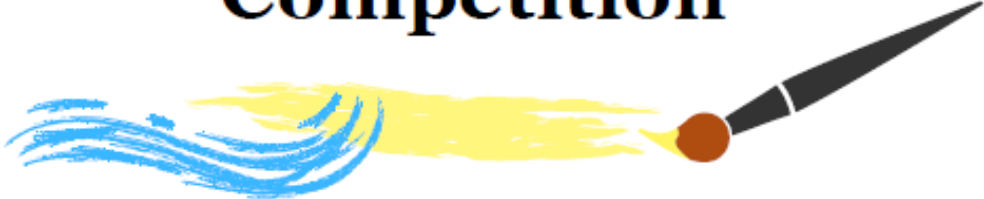
Thank you to Mr Barker and Taryn for supervising the students on the day and getting some great footage of them.

As mentioned at Monday's assembly following the event, our students were commended on their excellent behaviour, listening skills, and courtesy towards Heather the bus driver from Clarks who transported them to and from the event. Our students' friendly manner was appreciated, and they demonstrated The Springbank Way!





# Springbank School's Art Exhibition & Competition



## VIEWING: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of August BEFORE ASSEMBLY In the School Gym

---

### Winners for each year level announced Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of August at Assembly



## Youth Parliament

Every three years, the Youth Parliament is held at the Beehive in Wellington. This is a unique opportunity for young New Zealanders to learn first-hand about our democracy, influence government decision-making, and have their voices heard. Students aged 16-18 years are eligible to apply to become a Youth MP, and each sitting New Zealand MP gets to choose a young person to represent them over a six-month period. Springbank School was delighted that we had two students represent Northland at this year's event.

Clay Blakeman for National MP, Mr Grant McCallum and Leonardo Fisher for NZ First MP, Mr Shane Jones. Both Clay and Leonardo flew to Wellington during the July school holidays to take part in the three-day event.

### Clay Blakeman, Year 12

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of representing Northland as Grant McCallum's Youth MP at Youth Parliament 2025. Over three packed days in Wellington, I got to step into the shoes of a real MP, debating in the actual House of Representatives, working in select committees to improve the lives of rangatahi across New Zealand, and working alongside other passionate young leaders from every part of the country.

One of the biggest highlights for me was speaking in the debating chamber about issues facing youth in Northland. I also got to listen to all the other leaders' speeches, with a very wide range of speech topics. With some amazing and some questionable, it showed how passionate everyone was on the issues that affect us all.

I also had the chance to meet a bunch of current MPs and Ministers, such as the Hon James Meager, the Minister for Youth, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, The Prime Minister, as well as working with the Hon Mark Mitchell and his office. This experience gave me a better understanding of how decisions are made, what goes on behind the scenes, and what it actually takes to create change.

Youth Parliament was an unreal experience that opened my eyes to a vital part of our country, introduced me to leaders from across New Zealand, and put me into a position to advocate for change. If you can ever apply, apply - it is worth it.

*Clay Blakeman*

*Youth MP for Northland (National)*





## Youth Parliament continues ...

### Leonardo Fisher, Year 13

I had the honour of representing Mr Shane Jones from the NZ First party as his Youth MP at Youth Parliament 2025 in Wellington. Over three days, I participated in debates in the Beehive, co-chaired select committees, and connected with other passionate young leaders from across Aotearoa.

It was an unforgettable experience that deepened my understanding of government and inspired me to continue advocating for my community. Several of my highlights were hearing all the speeches in the debate chamber, and being able to meet so many current sitting New Zealand MPs.

I would highly recommend this experience to our senior students.

Leonardo Fisher

*Youth MP for Northland (NZ First)*



If you want to learn more about how to be part of the NZ Youth Parliament, follow their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ministryofyouthdevelopment>



Science Fair

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July, our Year 5-9 students displayed their Science Fair projects in the school gym.

Students can work individually or in pairs. They need to produce a science question that they must research, test, make predictions, analyse, and record results. The science projects this year covered a wide range of topics including:

- best soil to grow plants
- leaf gravity
- best storage for cookie dough
- fibres v fire
- dental decay
- microbe madness and much more

Well done to all our students on the incredible detail, research, and scientific knowledge you displayed. Special congratulations to following students who will be moving forward to the Regional Science Fair on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Turner Centre for judging. Public viewing is open on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August and prizegiving is on the night of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Year 5 & 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Daisy Olive G Ethan Camilla	Reuben Ruby Frank & Anton Andrew Mia & Alessa	Eddie & Ethan Ivy Mikayla R Fay	Iola Finn Zeke Isabella





## Book Fair

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August, we held our annual Book Fair.

THANK YOU to those who came along and purchased some books, a game or puzzle.

Together we raised **\$613.00** for Sea Cleaners!



## Student Success

Elizabeth Esscher (Year 13) is currently enrolled at Auckland University in the MAT 199: Advancing in Mathematics course.

During the July school holidays, Elizabeth sat the mid-term examination and received excellent results.

We'd like to congratulate Elizabeth on getting a headstart in her university studies, and demonstrating great dedication and perseverance by studying this paper by distance learning.





## Friends of Springbank

The Friends of Springbank committee are starting to talk about their big event of the year, the Fireworks Extravaganza. This community event welcomes over 2,500 people through the Springbank School gates from all over the Mid and Far North to enjoy a professional fireworks display, live music, and food.

Note the date on your calendar now for **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November**.

The Fireworks Extravaganza is run by the committee and the wonderful volunteers – YOU who put your hand up to help. Volunteer roles may include help with the set up of the event, managing food stalls on the night, pack-down the day after, bank or gate duties, bouncy castle supervision, food prep, to gifting prizes for the raffle or home kill for the spit roast or burgers.

As the saying goes “many hands make light work”, and as the previous 13 years of this event has shown, Springbank School is brilliant at coming together as a community to pitch in and help, to make this annual event such a professional celebration.

If you are able to help at this year’s Fireworks Extravaganza, a clipboard will be available outside the school office where you can add your name, email and phone number for the committee to reach out to you. Alternatively you can email the committee on [friends@springbank.school.nz](mailto:friends@springbank.school.nz)





## Headstart Report

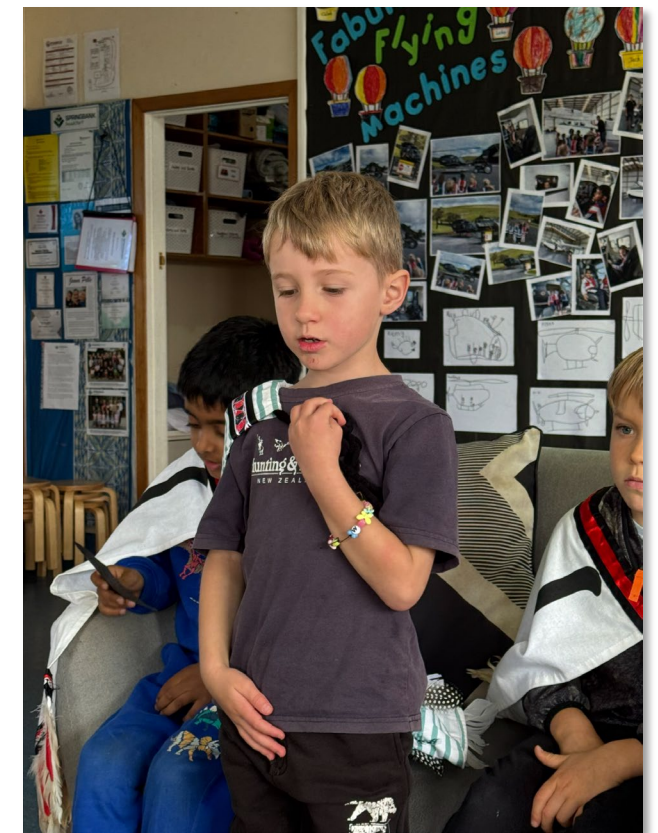
At Headstart we celebrate our oldest and most experienced tamariki, as official Headstart Tuakana. Tuakana (older members of the roopu / group) are mentors or guides who share their knowledge, skills and experience with teina (younger member of the roopu).

Headstart has a lovely kaupapa where our tuakana lead and inspire by example. This is a natural process when you have the lovely mixed age group that we have at Headstart, but we also love to shine a light on this and encourage these powerful relationships to develop further.

Recently, our teina enthusiastically created a lovely arch and our tuakana walked through while we sung a whakatauki. After the welcoming, our tuakana had the chance to introduce themselves using their whakapapa.

To round out our ceremony we had a hui about what a tuakana might do and how we identify them. The feedback we get from tamariki and whanau alike tells us the children love and value this role.

Jenna and I (Mrs Parker) look forward to supporting our Term 3 tuakana in their newfound roles and to help them develop their leadership skills.





## Preschool Update

Every Thursday we take eight of our eldest children to Little Dippers. This is an exciting and much anticipated activity here at Preschool and the children LOVE every minute of it. Just look at those smiles!

This weekly excursion connects us to our wider community, by utilising a great local facility available to us. Our children learn about transport, businesses, communication with others, and leadership skills. The swimming lessons are also an important part of our children's learning about water safety. Our children learn how to float, breathe in the water, and keep themselves safe, whilst having fun at the same time.







**Staff, coaches, managers and volunteers  
working with women and girls...**

Please join us for our inaugural network hui.

**Tues 16 September 2025 at 12.00 PM**  
**Sport Northland, 97 Western Hills Dr, Whangarei**

Please join us in our first meeting for establishing a Women and Girls network in Te Tai Tokerau. We will look to discuss challenges and barriers that affect wāhine in our communities participating in sport.

**RSVP** by 5 September via the below link  
<https://forms.office.com/r/mUVMYidqqf>

For further information please contact [claudiaa@sportnorth.co.nz](mailto:claudiaa@sportnorth.co.nz)



**ATHLETICS  
NEW ZEALAND**

# RUN JUMP THROW™

## COACHING COURSE Kerikeri

17th of August 2025

### UP SKILL AHEAD OF TRACK & FIELD SEASON

Run Jump Throw focuses on building athletics-specific skills in a fun and inclusive environment that inspires Kiwi kids to get involved. We'll also explore each discipline briefly, covering the key fundamentals along the way.

**Location: Kerikeri Sports Complex**  
**Address: Remarie Kapa Dr**  
**Time: 1pm-2.30pm**

[kirsty@athletics.org.nz](mailto:kirsty@athletics.org.nz)





**Paihia Sea Scouts 2025 Raffle****\$5 per ticket, \$20 for 5 tickets**

See Talia (Year 9 Room 16)

**PAIHIA SEA SCOUTS**  
2025 RAFFLE

XXXX

1) Family Fun: Fullers family pass to Hole in The Rock, Waitangi Treaty Grounds experience for 2, JFC voucher, Cellinis vouchers, Paihia Dive mask & snorkel

2) Cabbage Tree gift pack, Green's voucher, Cellinis vouchers

3) 2 have fun: Moana Kayaks double kayak for the day, R Tucker Thompson Sundowner sail for 2, Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands food and beverage voucher, Cellinis vouchers

4) Paihia Tyre Centre voucher, el Cafe voucher

5) Flying Kiwi Parasail for 1, ~~Letz voucher~~

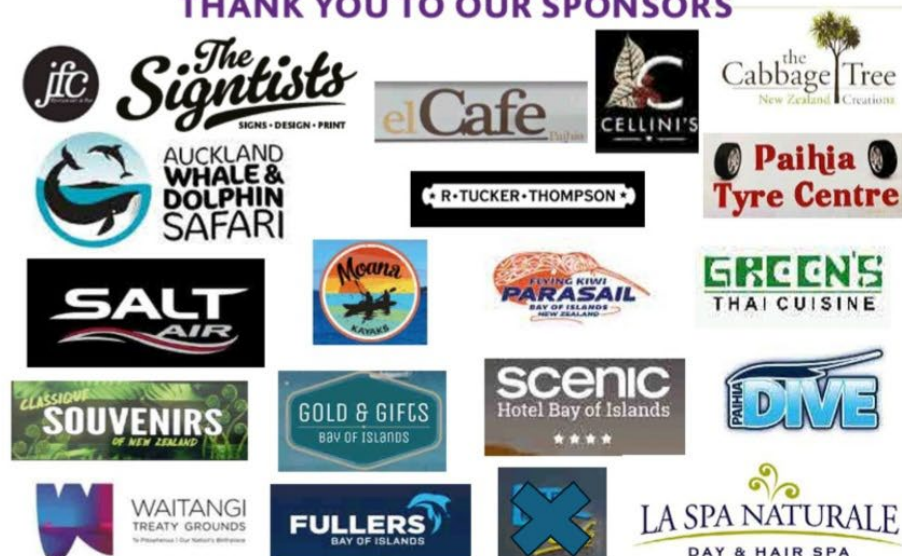
6) Auckland Whale & Dolphin Safari for 2 adults 1 child

7) Just relax: La Spa Naturale spa gift voucher, Green's voucher, Classique Souvenirs body bliss bath syrup set, Gold & Gifts liquidless diffuser set, Cellinis vouchers

8) Saltair Hole in The Rock helicopter scenic flight for 1, ~~Letz voucher~~

**\$5 per ticket  
\$20 for 5 tickets**

The raffle will be drawn on 18/8/25 at 8:00pm, at the Paihia Sea Scouts Den

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

Talia's Springbank School Year 9 Community Project

**TERM 3**

**WEDNESDAY'S**

3.15-4.00: 7-8 Y/O

4.15-5.15: 9-12 Y/O

**@KERIKERI PRIMARY  
SCHOOL FIELDS**

**COST: FREE!!**

**FANTAILS**

For more info head to [kerikerifc.co.nz/fantails](https://kerikerifc.co.nz/fantails)

