



Rodney College



TENA KOUTOU
MATUA MA

What We Stand For

Some Reflections on Service, Leadership, and Term 1 at Rodney College.

Carrying the Legacy of Service

Anzac Day reminds us of the highest form of service, those who gave their lives. We don't place everyday actions beside that sacrifice, but we do take time to reflect on what it means to serve. To stand for something. To carry pride, not for ourselves, but for others.

Last week, our student leaders placed the Anzac crosses in the garden outside the Hall and raised the flag. One of our staff spoke to students about the meaning of Anzac and the history behind it. These small moments matter. They remind us why it's important to know where we've come from and on whose shoulders we stand.

Leadership doesn't have to shout

These days, it's easy to think the loudest voice wins. But real leadership can be quiet, steady, and open. Open to difference, not to division. Willing to hear others, without needing everyone to agree.

Culture is carried in everyday choices

Service can be simple. Wearing the uniform properly. Turning up on time. Letting teachers teach and learners learn. It's seen in our Kapa Haka group, who carry the pride of whānau and whakapapa wherever they go. Culture isn't just about performance, it's about how we carry our families and values each day.

Doing your part matters

Thank you to those who've shown up and stepped up

this term.

To the students with 100% attendance whose names are shared in this newsletter.

To those who've joined teams or groups and used your talents to bring pride to us all - thank you.

To those who understand the importance of friendship and belonging. who look out for others, refuse to pass on rumours, and choose kindness over meanness - thank you.

To those who do the right thing even when no one is watching - thank you.

What Students Are Saying

It's not just staff who notice the sense of belonging here, our students feel it too. At assembly, two of our Year 9 students Woody Wedgwood and Amarah Farr ([speech link](#)) and Andrew Vercoe, Year 13, shared what Term 1 has meant to them. Their words remind us: school culture is lived, not just written down.

Term 2: Learning that matters

The focus now sharpens: corequisites, assessments, next steps. Learning that matters. Let's bring the same pride, service, and integrity into the term ahead and we look forward to seeing you at PSTs in Week 2.

Nga mihi

Laurence Caltaux
Principal

**PARENT STUDENT
TEACHER
(PST) CONFERENCE
THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025**

To make your appointment,
go online to
www.schoolinterviews.co.nz
In the green box for Parents,
enter this event code:
8jy8b
Follow the instructions to
make an
appointment with your
child's Academic
Counsellor.

WINTER UNIFORM

WITH WINTER APPROACHING A
REMINDER ABOUT UNIFORM.

TOP

Students should have either a school jumper, a school hoodie or a school jacket. No other jumpers, hoodies or jackets are permitted.

Students are allowed to wear a black or white long sleeve t-shirt/thermal under their school shirt.

FOOTWEAR

Students should have completely black shoes (no white soles). Socks with sandals are not permitted.

SCHOOL PANTS

Only school pants are allowed.

If you are struggling with uniform items for your child, please contact their Dean so we can help find a solution.

BY WOODY WEDGWOOD

YEAR 9 - CREATIVE WRITING

12.46-12.47: Minute by minute my mind fades, a subtle anxious feeling begins to fall, The dim light exposes my reflection. Ideas flow like a river in the desert. The difference between each student is their will to learn. Their dull, blank expressions and disruptive behaviour display various characteristics of an uninterested five year old.

Seeing nothing on my screen, I sigh in disappointment. My talent is writing, you say? I hit key after key only to resort back to my beloved backspace, hyperfocused on my surroundings. I find myself drifting further away from my priorities. Finishing this assignment is near impossible as the volume rises with each comment. Students' obnoxious personalities and selfish behavior constantly disrupt my train of thought. I mumble nonsense only to muddle my words.

My cursor slowly levitates over the introduction. I close my eyes in the hope that something will surface. My vague expression swiftly changes to a relaxed smile. A quote from my beloved teacher echoes in my head: "Write about something you have experienced." I have done it. I have found a topic. Word after word, my story begins to piece itself together. I am writing about the hardest task of all: completing a persuasive piece in 9 Rimu.

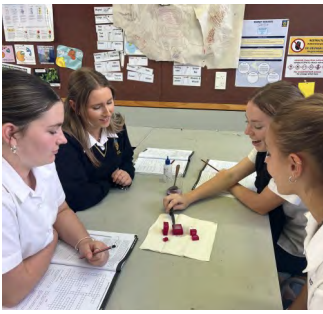
As my letters form words and my words form sentences, I repeat the same process, slowly retracing my steps. I uncover grammatical mistakes or misplaced words, promptly switching tabs. I type "other words for —" such an easy, effective mechanism to raise the standard of my story.

Being able to stay focused in 9 Rimu is a great accomplishment. Discipline, self-management, and high standards are something you can inherit after a short period of time in this class. Distractions will come in every challenge, whether it's sports, academics, or hanging out with friends. Being able to manage yourself and your decisions is something that will bring you a long way in life. "What we learn with pleasure, we never forget." – Alfred Mercier.



RODNEY COLLEGE

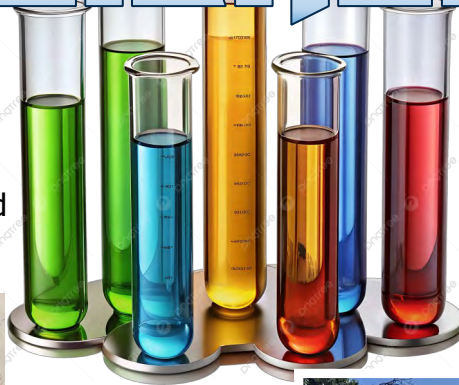
SCIENCE



The Year 12 Biology class exploring how diffusion is affected by cell shape and size using agar cubes, potatoes and carrots



Level 2 Biology collecting data on the intertidal community at Leigh



9 Kauri doing some Introduction To the Lab experiments



Year 10 Totara's Science experiments lately - testing solutions pH with universal indicator, testing different chips for their energy content and carrying neutralisation reactions.



EASEUP

Students had four 15 minute workshops learning about vaping from EaseUp, a

community based youth support organisation.

The students learnt about the physical effects of vaping, lung function, peer pressure and marketing.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term, our Level 1 PE students have had a fantastic time tackling a variety of team challenges. Through activities designed to build problem-solving skills,

whanaungatanga, effective communication, and rangatiratanga, they've discovered the power of kotahitanga (unity) in achieving success. One of the highlights? The exciting water challenges, which brought plenty of fun and laughter while putting their teamwork into action.



GRIP LEADERSHIP

On 18 March our leadership team headed down to the Due Drop Events Centre to participate in the GRIP Leadership Conference. At the conference, we learnt valuable skills and techniques through the different sessions they

ran. Our first session was on making our school a great place for others, followed by creating school events

everyone can connect to or creative ideas that aren't events. We finished the day with a choice between the sessions of being a leader who supports others, or tackling something at our school that feels impossible. We are looking forward to applying what we learnt from the GRIP team here at Rodney. There were lots of different schools at the conference and we enjoyed networking and participating in the various activities with other schools' leaders. During the sessions, we learnt valuable skills and techniques about inclusivity, responsibility, and more! We all felt that we learned something new, and that the day was rewarding. Thanks to Mrs Hackett and Miss Jones for organising the day and driving the vans!

Kaya Davis



ANZAC COMMEMORATION

Senior Leaders took time to remember those who served for our freedom by planting ANZAC crosses, raising the flag and paying their respects.

Thank you to Phil for his words on their behalf. A student cohort will also be attending the Dawn Parade.



RUN AND FUN

The colour run fundraiser had over 185 participants registered to run. The event raised \$3700, with more to come, for the Wellsford Fire Brigade. It was a fantastic community event as you will see by the photos (see more pics on the back page.)



NZ SKATEBOARD NATIONALS

Ary Teruel Crowe and Sage Freeman competed in the NZ Skateboard Nationals at the Mount. Both rode extremely well, Ary coming second and Sage third in the Open Mens Park division. This was on the heels of Shaun Boucher, a pro-skater.

What a great achievement for both of the boys!



SPORTS UPDATE

Surfing

Four of our surfers have been busy this term, competing in the Northland Surfing trials. A special shout-out to **Emma Lay**, who placed 2nd in the U16 Girls Shortboard Division in Trial 2 and 3rd in Trial 1 – an awesome achievement! The team has also been supported by **Craig Freeman**, who's been running regular development sessions in **Mangawhai** to help our surfers grow their skills.

Mixed Touch Rugby

Our Mixed Touch team travelled to Kaikohe in Week 7 to compete in the top division for Northland Secondary Schools. While the scoreboard didn't reflect their efforts, the young team showed loads of potential. Coach **Mr Kingi** is excited to keep developing the group, with eyes on **Winter Tournament Week** later this year.

Volleyball

Last week, our Girls Volleyball team took part in the Division 2 Tournament at **McKay Stadium**,

finishing with two wins and two very close losses – a great effort. This week, we also sent two Boys teams up to compete – results to come!

Winter Sports – What's Coming

Plenty of teams are now trialling and training in preparation for Term 2 & 3 competitions. Keep an eye out and come support when you can!

Basketball – 1x Senior Boys, 2x Junior Boys

Hockey – 1x Mixed team

Netball – 6x Girls teams

Football – 1x Boys, 1x Girls



There will also be tournament days run by **Sport Northland**. Term 2 events are on the school calendar.

If you're keen to get involved, contact our Sports Coordinator, **Cairo**.



RUGBY

It was great to see Rodney College colours back on the rugby field after five years. The boys, with several new to the game, stepped up, demonstrating plenty of team spirit, showing they were ready to be counted. Facing a bigger, better-drilled Mahurangi team, they held their own for parts of the game and gave it everything. The support from parents and



the wider community showed how much everyone enjoyed the opportunity to see us playing rugby again. Well done to the boys for getting involved and showing real pride in their school. We hope this will be something that can be built on. A big thank you to Mr. Hammond for his expert coaching and dedication to the team.



SENIOR GIRLS KIWI TAG

Well done to our senior girls Kiwi Tag team for securing 3rd place at the Northland competition.

The girls demonstrated outstanding teamwork, executing some fantastic skills on the field. Impressively, every team member managed to score at least one try throughout the day. A special mention goes to Kacey and Millie, who were recognised as tournament players of the day, and to Mila and Millie, our top try scorers.

A huge thank you to Stu Oldfield for coaching the team!



BASKETBALL – SENIOR BOYS

Our Senior Boys Basketball team is wrapping up a strong term in the Kaipara Secondary Schools competition, where they've gone up against five other local schools. They're chasing a 3rd-place finish to qualify for the **Northland Premier League** in Term 2.



A highlight was a big **81–63** win over Dargaville High School (M. Delos Santos 25 pts, (3x3pt); T. Hoani 18 pts; Cairyn 14 pts). The boys also picked up a solid win against Bream Bay College and pushed Tauraroa and Ruawai in two

close losses. With most of the team in Years 10 and 12, plus a wave of Year 9 talent coming through, the future of Rodney Basketball looks promising!

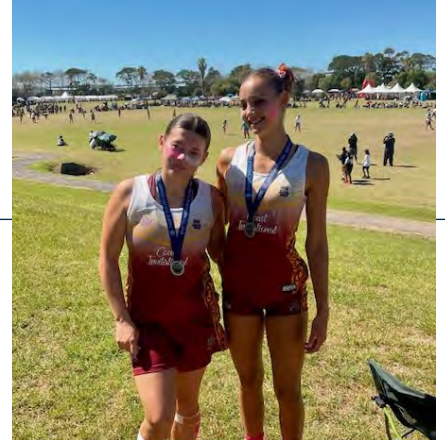


NATIONAL TAG

Millie Brierly and Mackenzie Oldfield were selected at the end of Term 3 2024 for Puarangi Kotiro U16 Girls Tag team, through Hetariki Sports. The team competed in the Junior Pacific Cup tournament in December and came 2nd in the U16 Girls. They competed in an invitational one day tournament at Silverdale RFC in the Open Womens and placed 2nd. They played in the Senior Pacific Cup tournament

in March 25 in the U18 Girls grade and again placed 2nd, playing a very neck and neck intense final.

Both girls are now awaiting a possible selection to travel to Australia late this year to compete in the 3PTag Tournament in Brisbane.



PHOTOLIFE

Look for an email that has been sent out with your unique Key Code to go online to view and purchase 2025 School Photos. *****FREE DELIVERY EXPIRES Midnight Sunday 27 APRIL 2025*****

Keep an eye on your trash/spam folder. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. *Parent Queries – Please contact us on:* enquiries@photolife.co.nz

MENTORS NEEDED

We're looking for reliable, compassionate men (18+) who can commit a few hours a week to guide, encourage, and be a positive role model for a young person. No special qualifications are required, just a big heart and a desire to make a difference.

Or perhaps you know someone in your school community who would be a great fit?

If so, interested people can get in touch with us directly:

customer care@macstrong.co.nz
www.macstrong.co.nz

Thank you for supporting local young people, together, we can help these boys feel seen, supported, and inspired to achieve their potential.

MAC STRONG

Our CHILDREN. Our FUTURE.
Ā tātou TAMARIKI. Tō tātou ANAMATA.

Click on the link in our post to register **Three day LEARNER LICENSE COURSE** For More Information Contact jen.tobias@gmail.com

28th, 29th, 30th April 2025

DAY ONE: THEORY LEARNING WHERE: TE HANA TE AO MARAMA
DAY TWO: THEORY LEARNING
DAY THREE: TEST DAY 9AM TILL 3PM EACH DAY

TO REGISTER YOU MUST BE AT LEAST THE AGE OF 16 BY THE 28TH DAY TO ATTEND

COST PER PARTICIPANT: \$96.10 (TO BE PAID ON DAY 3) FACILITATOR: WAKA KOTAHU

port to Cove!

FREE Fishing Competition

Sat 26th April 2025
6AM - 3PM

lots of great prizes including Kids!

maiplace.co.nz

Marsden Point to Waipu Cove
Classic Rod & Reel Beach Fishing Competition

Get your tickets SCAN HERE  Get your tickets SCAN HERE 



RODNEY COLLEGE

287-319 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900
Telephone (09) 423 6030 Fax (09) 423 7555
Website www.rodneycollege.school.nz

100% Attendance

YEAR 9

JP Centino
Hunter Chappell
Shawn Dató-On
Leigha Dinsdale
Amarah Farr
Eden Harris
Rhianna Holt
Caleb Ryder
Kyran Scott
Natasha Ward
Kyle Watson-Walker

YEAR 10

Erika Green
Jimmy Hardman
Annie Lay
Ellie Russell
Mia Waldrom

YEAR 11

Arati Carroll-Dickey
Lincoln Clapham
Levi Dixon
Abbie Dobbs
Oscar Hyslop
Connell Mackay
Daniel Oppelt
Hannah Robinson
Taylah Sheffield
Izy Warahi
Jasper Watson

YEAR 12

Nathan Costello
Laura Cramond
Jaidee Downes
Katie Hardman
Siena Liu
Dayshin Para
Joseph Song
Bella Wade

YEAR 13

Shiahn Davis
Jason Godinagh
Cody Watson-Walker

FUN RUN FUNDRAISER



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Monday 28 April	Start of Term 2
Thursday 1 April	Showquest Northland
Thursday 8 May	PST 1 (Parent Student Teacher Interviews)
Saturday 10 May	RockQuest Northland Heats
Tuesday 13 May	Senior Music Performance
Wednesday 14 May	RYDA—Year 12 students
Thursday 15 May	Writers Festival
Thursday 22 May	Volleyfest
Friday 30 May	NCEA Accord Teacher Only Day
Monday 2 June	Kings Birthday holiday

**A warm invitation is extended to all family and friends to attend all events during the year.
We look forward to seeing you.**

CONTACTS 2025

Mrs M Williams	Absences	423 6038 attendance@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mrs C Wright	GATEWAY Careers	423 6037 colleen.wright@rodneycollege.school.nz
Miss K Jenner	Guidance Counsellor	423 6036
Mrs P Bond	Accounts Payable	423 6034 eo@rodneycollege.school.nz
Ms L Te Haara	Year 9 Dean	lisa.te@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr W Ngatipa	Year 10 Dean	wiremu.ngatipa@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr M Kingi	Year 11 Dean	michael.kingi@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr S Davie-Martin	Year 12 Dean	steve.davie@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr C Kotuhi	Sports Coordinator	cairo.kotuhi@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mrs M Harrison	SENCO (Learning Support)	423 6030xtn 260 megan.harrison@rodneycollege.school.nz

We like to highlight every achievement for our students. If you become aware of one of our student's adventures / achievements, please contact Jo Warahi in the front office.

