



**Tauranga
Special
School**
Learning together

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WEEK 1 KAWERONGO - SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

Kia ora koutou,

Date: July 2024

Passing of Tauranga Special School Kaumatua:

We are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Tu Piahana our school's Kaumatua at home Wednesday evening on the 3rd July. That morning Tu with us for our whole school Matariki Celebrations at the Base School. He had a wonderful time and was looking forward to returning the next day for our Mihi - Whakatau to welcome our new students, their families and new staff.



Tu began his important role as our Kaumatua in 2012. Our school is affiliated to Huria (Judea) marae located in Brookfield. The primary hapū is Ngāi Tamarawaho of Ngāti Ranginui.

Tu was a respected tribal elder in his Māori community who was involved with their whānau for many years. He was appointed by his people who believed he had the capacity to teach and guide both the current and future generations.

Over the last 12 years Tu has helped advise and guide us in so many ways with our commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). He officiated at many of our formal and informal functions and became a friend to all. Tu's final resting place is on Motuopae Island in the Waikareao Estuary. The island can be seen looking west when you travel along Takitimu Drive.

11.03.1945 - 03.07.2024

Rest in peace Tu.

Ngā mihi Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Principal