

Ngā Tira o te Waka o Kaipara (Our Tira System)

In 2025, Kaipara College proudly launches Ngā Tira, our revitalised house system designed to embody the spirit of Te WAKA o Kaipara - our school values.

Ngā Tira translates to 'the travelling parties' and reflects the waka (canoe) journey we all undertake together. Each Tira represents a significant part of a waka, connecting our school's vision of Eke Panuku, Eke Tangaroa (Navigate to Success) to our daily lives.

- **Taurapa (Red):** The stern of the waka, symbolises stability and resilience.
- **Tauihu (Green):** The bow of the waka, representing leadership and direction.
- **Te Rā (Yellow):** The sail, embodying energy and aspiration.
- **Takere (Blue):** The hull, signifying strength and unity.



Each student and staff member belongs to one of the four Tira, forming a lifelong connection to their house throughout their time at Kaipara College. Tira will provide a platform for collaboration, competition, and community, fostering a sense of belonging and school spirit across all of our year levels.

Key features of Ngā Tira include:

- Fortnightly Tira assemblies and celebrations where students gather within their Tira to celebrate achievements, share goals, and strengthen relationships
- Tuakana-Teina leadership where senior (or more experienced) students mentor juniors (or less experienced) students, fostering growth and support through peer relationships.
- Major Events Each Term including a Sports/Tabloids Day, Matariki Kapa Haka Day, Ag Day, and Charity Event are highlights of our calendar, with Tira competing for points to win the coveted Tira Trophy each term with one supreme winner at the end of the year.

Ngā Tira is more than a house system - it's a framework for belonging, leadership, and collective success. By embedding our waka-inspired structure into school life, Ngā Tira celebrates our shared journey and ensures every student and staff member is an integral part of Kaipara College's vibrant community and shared success.



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"The sternpost"

"E tū me he **taurapa** whakairoiro."

"Stand like an ornately carved **sternpost**."



This metaphor emphasises not only the importance of standing firm and confident but also the beauty and craftsmanship that come with it. Just as a finely carved sternpost enhances the aesthetics and strength of a waka, standing proudly embodies resilience, elegance, dignity and strength.



"The prow"

"Mā te **tauihu** o tōu waka e ū te waiora, kia mahue atu ngā mea whakahirahira i roto i te kōriporipo."

"May the **prow** of your canoe, cleave the waters of life and leave in its wake, mighty deeds."



As you navigate to success, may you look back at your life and reflect upon all of your achievements.



"The hull"

"E kore e ngaro he **takere** waka nui."

"The **hull** of a great waka will not be lost."



This whakatauki signifies that the core or foundation of something significant will endure despite challenges. It's a reminder of resilience and the lasting strength of what's truly important.



"The sail"

"Hūtia te punga, tākiritia hoki **te rā**."

"Raise the anchor and unfurl **the sail**."



This is a call to action, urging one to embark on a journey or venture forth. It encapsulates the idea of readiness and initiative, suggesting that it's time to set sail, leave behind constraints, and embrace new opportunities.