

ROTORUA BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL RAUKURA



RAUKURA PRINCIPAL MR A.C. GRINTER'S
RETIREMENT MESSAGE

Tuesday, 4th June 2024





RAUKURA



It has always been my understanding that "Raukura", though literally referring to a feather or special plume, in fact conveyed a much more significant shade of meaning. In some measure those described as possessors of the "Raukura" were of particularly significant stature. They were considered to have justified such a privilege by reason of illustrious lineage, extremely noteworthy leadership or some remarkable achievement in another field - perhaps warfare, diplomacy or unparalleled knowledge. Being considered worthy of the "Raukura" would undoubtedly have been an accolade sought eagerly by aspiring tribal members in the past. When ultimately bestowed (by general consensus) on a deserving individual, it clearly indicated a level of excellence of the greatest merit. Academic achievement was, particularly during the 20th Century, recognised as the single most vital element in the advancement and well being of us all. I can only presume that this was clearly apparent to those of the 1910s, whose efforts resulted in the establishment of Rotorua District High School in 1914. The remarkable and farsighted educational endowment made by the Ngāti Whakaue people 34 years even before that, is evidence enough of their support of and belief in education. I have no doubt that the use of "Raukura" was a subtle message of encouragement for all to take advantage of education, to seek excellence and thus justify the "Raukura".

Don Stafford, RBHS Old Boy



Principal's Message

Kia ora e te whānau o Raukura,

My retirement from my position as Tūmuaki/Principal of our school was announced at the Board Meeting last Thursday night and is effective from the end of this current term in mid July. It has truly been a huge honour and privilege to have had this leadership role in our amazing school since my appointment 33 years ago in July 1991.

I need to express my gratitude and pay tribute to the wonderful Tamatāne that have called Raukura their school and in some cases their home and to the talented Pouako who have taught, supported and mentored these young men over these years.

I have always placed great emphasis on the importance of "team" and "whānau" and for Raukura to be effective and successful it is very much an expression of the great energy, talent and effort of the many that make up Team Raukura. Thank you one and all.

We have had over these years many wonderful successes and achievements. With more Māori boys than any other high school in Aotearoa New Zealand we have willingly and proudly taken the lead in demonstrating what success can look like for our tamatāne as young Māori men and we know that when this success is happening then success also happens for our non-Māori ākonga. Long may our school build and continue with equity in outcomes success for all. Raukura i te rangi e!

I acknowledge the different Boards across my years and the Chairs of those Boards for their support and willingness to back some bold moves and projects. I have also been very fortunate to have enjoyed great support and trust from our parents and whānau and Raukura has certainly benefitted from the generosity of local Iwi and the wider community.

Such generosity started with the gifting by Ngāti Whakaue of this beautiful land, with a meeting point we now call Te Akitu a Raukura, more than 100 years ago and this support continues to this day. This school has enjoyed an advantage other schools in other towns have always envied.

Finally I am again thankful to have been given this leadership opportunity over an extended period and I wish all the very best to Te Whānau Whānui o Raukura for success today, tomorrow and into the future.

Whāia Te Iti Kahurangi!

Kia Kaha Raukura!

Mr A.C. Grinter

