



Rotorua Boys' High School

Job Description

Position:	Social Worker
Responsible to:	Principal and Board of Trustees
Functional relationships with:	Guidance Counsellor Teaching staff Support Staff Deputy Principals Students Parents and Caregivers
Dated:	March 2021
Position Term:	Permanent

School background:

Rotorua Boys' High School is a State boys' secondary school of approximately 1150 students. It is one of five Rotorua high schools and caters for students from Year 9 to Year 14. The school opened in 1914 as the Rotorua District High School before becoming Rotorua High and Grammar School in 1927. Rotorua Boys' High School evolved from these beginnings in 1959.

The school includes an off-site attached unit based in Pererika Street known as the Rotorua Activity Centre, or more commonly known as Awhina School. The School also has a 140 bed Hostel known as Tai Mitchell House.

Rotorua Boys' High School is known to many in the community as 'Raukura'. Don Stafford explains the historical background to this name.

"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 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 has, particularly during the 20th century, been 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 1920's whose efforts resulted in the establishment of Rotorua High and Grammar School in 1927. The remarkable and farsighted education endowment made by the Ngati Whakaue people some 40 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'."

Rotorua Boys' High School Taonga

- The concept of 'Raukura'
- The administration block
- The school's relationships with Ngati Whakaue
- The foyer and Memorial Hall carvings
- The Trevor Nathan Sculptures "Raukura" and "Te Hokinga"
- The Roi Toia Sculpture "Tane Raukura"
- The school magazine that carries the title 'Raukura'
- The trees that adorn the school's grounds
- The prefect system
- The house competition
- The house group system
- Tai Mitchell Hostel
- The Former Students of the school
- The 'Hall of Fame'
- The 'Pro Patria' Rolls of Honour
- The Annual Prizegiving Ceremony
- The Harwood Library
- The Ryder Gates
- The Millennium Centre

Our motto:

"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA"
"To the stars through rough ways"

This motto is, so far as I have been able to determine, not a quotation from ancient literature. It may well have been composed by the school's foundation Principal. If so, he almost certainly had in mind the famous motto of the Royal Air Force (and the Royal New Zealand Air Force) PER ARDUA AD ASTRA, which means "Through steep ways to the stars" and makes the same suggestion as the school motto. The RAF motto was created for the Royal Flying Corps (forerunner of the RAF) in 1913; the reference to the stars was, of course, particularly appropriate for that body, but the motto as a whole was certainly intended to have the wider implication indicated above. (*Dr W.F. Richardson, Senior Lecturer in Classics, University of Auckland*).

Our motto caters for our students who come from all walks of life, and who bring with them their own special talents and needs. Our motto helps us to work with each of our students and to assist them to succeed, whilst at the same time providing them with the tools to make that success possible.

Our original Latin motto and the equivalents in both Maori and English combine together to give us as a school not only a special identity, but also a common purpose.

**WHAIA TE ITI KAHURANGI
AIM HIGH DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA**

Our vision is:

To become the outstanding Boys' High School in New Zealand

To achieve the vision, we will focus on:

- The academic achievements of our students.
- The sporting achievements of our students.
- The achievement of our students in cultural activities.
- The development of leadership qualities of our students.
- The development of citizenship qualities in our students.

Key responsibilities and outcomes

General duties

- Work directly with young people attending Rotorua Boys' High School and their families.
- Support the well-being of the young person and their Whanau who's social and family/whanau circumstances place at risk their chances of achieving positive education, social and health outcomes.
- Demonstrates both the skills and passion for working with young people.
- Work positively within the school's wellness staff team.
- Maintain regular contact with the Principal and Guidance Counsellors.
- Meet annual objectives as agreed by the Principal.

Record Keeping/Monitoring

- Maintain current student records of actions through Kamar system.
- Hold regular meetings with the young person(s) and families to review progress towards their goals.
- Provide regular progress reports to the Principal and Guidance Counsellors.
- Keep a daily task sheet record/diary.
- Carry out administrative duties associated with the position.

Relationship Management

- Leads / supports crisis management interventions.
- Establish and maintain appropriate working relationships with schools, government agencies and community-based social services which are involved with or may be able to assist the young person and their family.
- Monitor the young person and family use of agencies and services and assist them to resolve any barriers.
- Establish and maintain appropriate and positive relationships with students attending Rotorua Boys' High School.
- Broker support from community-based social services/health services for the young person and their whanau one week after assessment.
- Provide support for young person when attending appointments and interviews.
- De-escalate extreme emotionally charged situations.
- Follow up attendance and well-being of targeted students.

Professional development

- Take part in the annual performance management/Professional Growth Cycle processes.

Health and Safety

Be responsible for own safety, notifying the Deputy Principal or Principal of any possible work hazards or incidents.

Person specifications

- Proven experience working with young people and their whanau
- Has a commitment to empowering young people and their whanau.
- Has strong, self-management skills.
- Has effective communication skills.
- Demonstrates the ability to practice in a manner that is culturally appropriate and consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.
- Has networks within the community and able to build new ones as required.
- Is a natural relationship initiator and is able to maintain positive relationships with all stakeholders.
- Is flexible in hours of work.
- A high degree of personal presentation and professional skill.
- Knowledge of the Privacy Act.
- Full Drivers License.
- A formal qualification in Social Work an advantage.

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Signed by	Date
_____	_____
Signed by A.C. Grinter on behalf of the Board of Trustees	Date