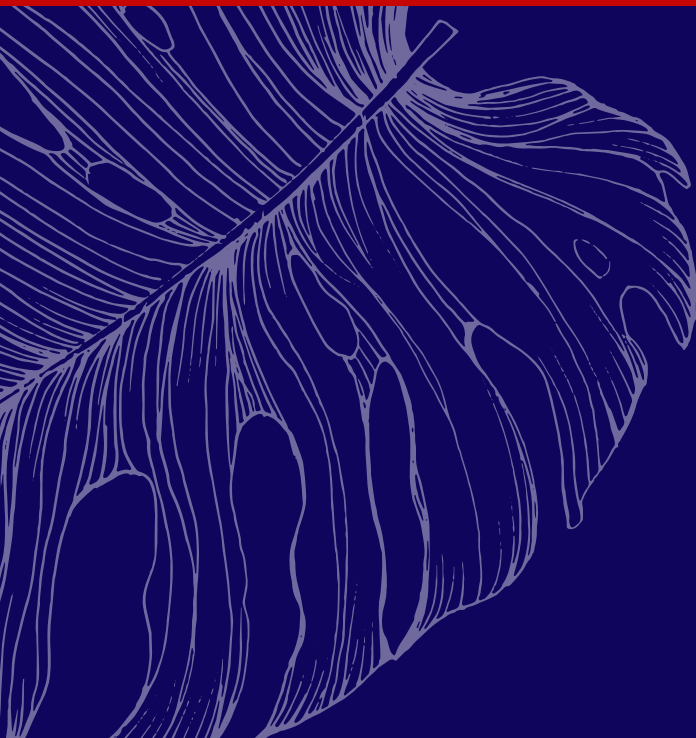




WELCOME TO OUR

PACIFICA NUSIPEPA



LEADERS UPDATE + INTRODUCTIONS



Leila Curry YR 13, Samoan

2026 PACIFICA LEADER



Lopo Nai, YR 13, Tongan

2026 PACIFICA LEADER

Term 1 has been a busy and successful term as well as an incredible start to the year. Our Pacifica students have been really busy with events such as the combined Māori and Pacifica Hui, the Polynesian Panthers workshop, attending Polyfest as well as with individual commitments such as sports, dance and other extracurricular activities. Along with these commitments, we also formed our Pacifica Leadership Committee which was announced at the Whānau Hui. Everyone from the Pacifica Tutor Class as well as the Pacifica students from Tu Rangatira will be added into the leadership team. Hence, we will be looking forward to working with and growing our young leaders into people who are comfortable and confident in representing their culture in a place where culture is often lacking.

Our tutor class is managed by the lovely Miss Koria and Miss Maletino. In tutor, we open the space up each morning with a prayer. For this term, we have started off with getting familler with all of the prayers of our Pacifica countries to familiarise ourselves with the many cultures within our shared space. From next term, we will be looking forward to learning and memorising our prayers as well as the hymns to open up our mornings and to perform at our events. Students have been encouraged to step up and lead prayers which has allowed them to develop courage within our Pacific tutor class. We have had a mean start to 2026 and we are looking forward to a successful and beautiful rest of the year.

Malo Aupito and Alofa Atu

Lopo Nai, Yr13, Tongan

Leila Curry, Yr13, Samoan

Māori and Pacific Hui

Kia orana, Nisa bula vinaka, Talofa lava and Malo e lelei,

On Thursday 19th February, the Māori and Pacific tutor classes at Rangitoto College hosted their first whānau hui. The Year 13 Tū Rangatira leaders, Michael (Mikey) Te Paa and Claire Xu and Year 13 Pacific leaders, Leila Curry and Daniel (Lopo) Nai emceed a successful evening in the Rangi Centre with over 100 people in attendance. The hui began with a powerful mihi whakatau, welcoming all attendees and setting the tone for the evening.

The Māori and Pacific hui allowed our students, their families and their teachers to come together in a vibrant celebration of culture and community. Highlights of the hui included the announcement of the Māori and Pacific Committee Leaders for 2026 and presentations on academic initiatives and support programs that will be running at the kura in order to support our Māori and Pacific students.

One-on-one mentoring and support options will still continue for our Year 12 and Year 13 students and our attendance at Polyfest and the Polynesian Panthers workshop serve as a catalyst for increasing and strengthening the bonds within our cohort. All of these exciting initiatives and events in the Māori and Pacific space allow our students to lead by example and create an environment where every student feels empowered to step into the greatness they are capable of.

The evening concluded with a delicious spread of food, allowing families, students and staff to connect with each other. The hui exemplifies the strength of our Māori and Pacific community at Rangitoto College. It is wonderful to see our students embracing their cultural identities and supporting each other's journeys at the kura. Amidst laughter, smiles, music, delicious food and dancing, the Māori and Pacific whānau hui was a resounding success. The evening was a testament to the power of our community in coming together and succeeding as a community.

A big thank you to our RA and PA tutor classes for decorating, hosting the evening and packing up afterwards. Thank you to our Deputy Principal, Olivia Newman, Associate Principal, Fay Meiklejohn and Acting Principal, Peter Morton for their continued leadership and support in this space. A big thank you to RA tutor teachers, Ke'arn Peters, Mark Terei, Cherie Marks and Penetana Williams and PA Tutor teachers, Lyric Koria and Carmelita Maletino for their dedication in growing this space in our kura.

We look forward to hosting our next hui.





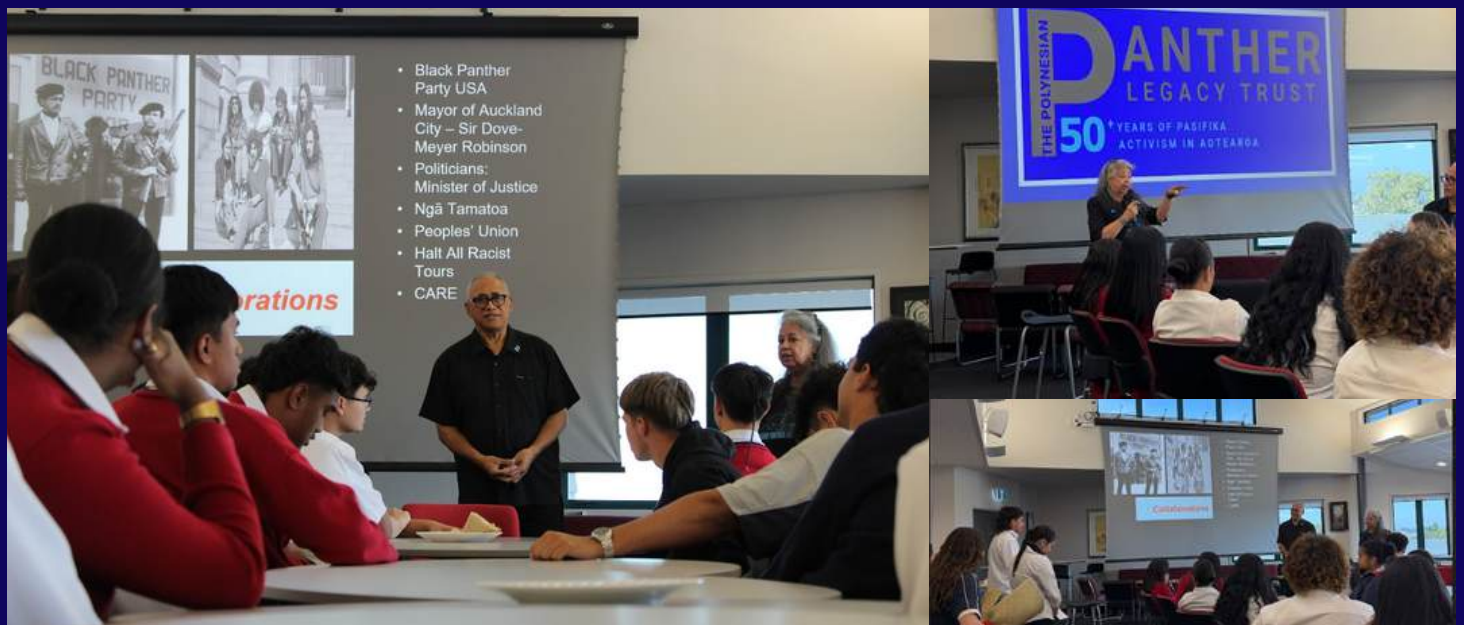
POLYNESIAN PANTHERS

On Thursday 19th March, Rangitoto College had the honour of welcoming back the original members of the Polynesian Panthers as part of their Educate to Liberate initiative. For our Pacific cohort, this was more than just a history lesson; it was a chance to connect with the living legacy of a movement that shaped Aotearoa.

The day began with a powerful presentation to our Year 9 students during Period 2, where the Panthers shared the stark realities of the 1970s Dawn Raids. Following this, the experience transitioned into a deeply personal Period 3 workshop specifically for our Pacific students. This session allowed for the Vā to flourish, the sacred space where our rangatahi could kōrero directly with the elders about the courage required to stand up against injustice. A recurring theme throughout the workshop was the idea that this history belongs to us. As our student leaders, Lopo Nai and Leila Curry noted in their address to the staff, the stories of the Panthers are the stories of our own parents and grandparents. Listening to first-hand accounts and the founding of the Panthers in 1971 reminded us that the activists who drove massive social change were the same age as our current senior students, just 16 and 17 years old.

The Panthers challenged us to consider our own roles as leaders in a new age of advocacy. They spoke about the importance of “staying in the fight” and how continuous support for a cause is what ultimately transforms a community. To witness our Pacific students engaging so deeply with these pioneers was an incredible experience.

Year 12 students, Knox Tagaloa and Aysha Ireland thanked the speakers and highlighted that the visit has left our Pacific cohort inspired to carry the activist torch, ensuring that the lessons of the past continue to fuel the leaders of our future.



Polyfest



On Friday 20th March, our Pacific cohort swapped the classroom for the vibrant stages of the Manukau Sports Bowl for an unforgettable day at Polyfest. After weeks of planning and anticipation, the weather played its part perfectly, providing us with a beautiful, blue-sky Auckland day to immerse ourselves in the sights, sounds, and flavours of the Pacific. The energy was electric from the moment we arrived. For our students who are currently part of the Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, and Cook Island performance groups back here at Rangitoto, it was an invaluable learning opportunity. Watching the absolute precision of the Samoan sāsā, the power of the Fijian meke, and the grace of the Tongan sōkē on the various stages was outstanding. Our students weren't just spectators; they were students of their craft, watching and taking notes on the passion and discipline required to represent their culture.

Between the performances, the day was filled with smiles and shared kai. Whether it was the smell of the BBQ or the refreshing taste of an 'otai, the food was just as much a highlight as the music! We split into groups to explore the different stages, which showcased the incredible multicultural fabric of our wider community.

This year's theme was *Ko au ko te Taiao! Ko te Taiao ko au! He Toa Taiao Taiohi nō te Moana nui a Kiwa, āke, ake, ake!*—"The environment lives in me, as I live in it - a 'Pacific Youth Eco-Warrior' for generations to come!"

This resonated deeply with us. It reminded our rangatahi that by celebrating these traditions today, they are carrying the torch for the generations that came before them, as Polyfest focused on environmental stewardship and youth empowerment.

Overall, it was a day of immense pride and joy. Our students returned to school not just with full stomachs and sun-kissed faces, but with a renewed fire for their own upcoming performances. We can't wait to bring that same Polyfest energy back to our rehearsals in E12!

Malo 'aupito and fa'afetai lava.

DANCE GROUPS

TONGAN GROUP

Malo e lelei kainga ako.

As a Pacific leader at Rangitoto College and the dance leader for our Tongan girls' dance group, I am incredibly proud to lead in this cultural space. For me, the Tongan group is more than just a performance; it is a vital platform to showcase the beauty of our heritage to the wider school community. It provides a sense of belonging for our students, allowing them to deepen their cultural identity and express who they are to their peers, teachers, and families. We invite you to witness this passion every Friday at lunchtime in E12 as we prepare to represent our culture with pride.

Malo aupito.

Aj Fakaosi, YR 11, Tongan

SAMOAN SIVA GROUP

As Pacifica leaders at Rangitoto College, we have the honor of leading our Samoan Siva group. This is a vibrant space where both our boys and girls come together to celebrate the heart of Samoa. For us, leading this group is about more than just the performance; it is a way to showcase our beautiful heritage to the wider school and help our peers connect with their cultural identity. It gives every student a platform to express their pride to their friends, teachers, and aiga. Our group is a family, and we practice every Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime in E12. We'd love to see you there!

Fa'afetai lava

Rita Ioane, Y12, Samoan

Teri Asoau, Y11, Samoan

Queeness Lolouta, Y11, Samoan



DANCE GROUPS PT2

COOK ISLANDS



Kia orana katoatoa, I am the group leader of the Kuki Airani dance group for 2026! I was really inspired to create a safe and comfortable environment for all of the girls and boys joining our group this year. Ura is not only dancing but an expression of our culture, our internal feelings and external emotions to our connection of knowledge passed down from our 'akatupuna. Although it is a Cook Island group, many different Pacifica students are always welcome to join!! We are currently learning our kaparima (action dance). I enjoy dancing and expressing my culture to my family, community and all together lending the knowledge to my group. When dancing, I show my true self and always have a bright smile expressing my love and adoration for my culture. I really encourage many more to join or come along to learn or watch. We practice every Monday in E12. I look forward to this year's Kuki Airani dance group.

Maki va'ine!

Jezariah Holmes, YR 13, Cook Island

FIJIAN GROUP

Bula Vinaka!

This term, the Fijian Group has been practising a Fijian Meke. The meke is used as a performance at important events or as a way to tell a story. We practise every Thursdays at lunch in E11. We have a range of cultures and year levels involved in the group, with students ranging from year 11-13 from the Cook islands, Tonga and many other cultural backgrounds within the group. We perform at the Whanau Huis, Papiwharauoa Festival and the Success Evening at the end of the year. Last year, we were lucky enough to have been invited to perform at Cultural Fest in Mount Roskill. We aim to show others the Fijian culture while showcasing the cultural diversity involved in our group. Overall, I enjoy teaching the meke to the group. It is always so nice to see the dances come together and the way the girls interact as a group, and to showcase more of the Fijian culture.

Vinaka Vakalevu

Liviana Dakuidreketi, YR 12, Fijian



PA – Tutor Teachers

Term 1 has been a season of deep connection and vibrant energy.

As we look back on Term 1, our hearts are full. Our focus this year has been simple but deeply important: ensuring that every one of our Pacific ākonga has a space where they can be authentically themselves.

We believe that for a student to achieve their best in the classroom, they first need to feel that their whole identity, their language, their faith, and their heritage is welcome at the school gate. Whether it was through the shared silence of our morning lotu, the brave storytelling in our Polynesian Panthers workshop, or the pride shown on the Polyfest stage, we have seen our students stand taller this term. It is a privilege for both of us to walk alongside these young people. Our goal for the rest of the year is to keep growing this village within the college so that it becomes a place where our students don't have to leave their culture at the door, but instead use it as the very foundation of their success.

Thank you to the staff and whānau who help us protect and grow this space. We are so proud of our students for the courage they show in being exactly who they are.

Lyric Korua and Carmelita Maletino



Upcoming Events

Samoan Language Week : Term 2 Week 7

- Phrases of the day

Continue practices for cultural groups

- Samoan Siva Group
- Cook Island Group
- Fijian Meke Group
- Tongan Group