

TERM 2

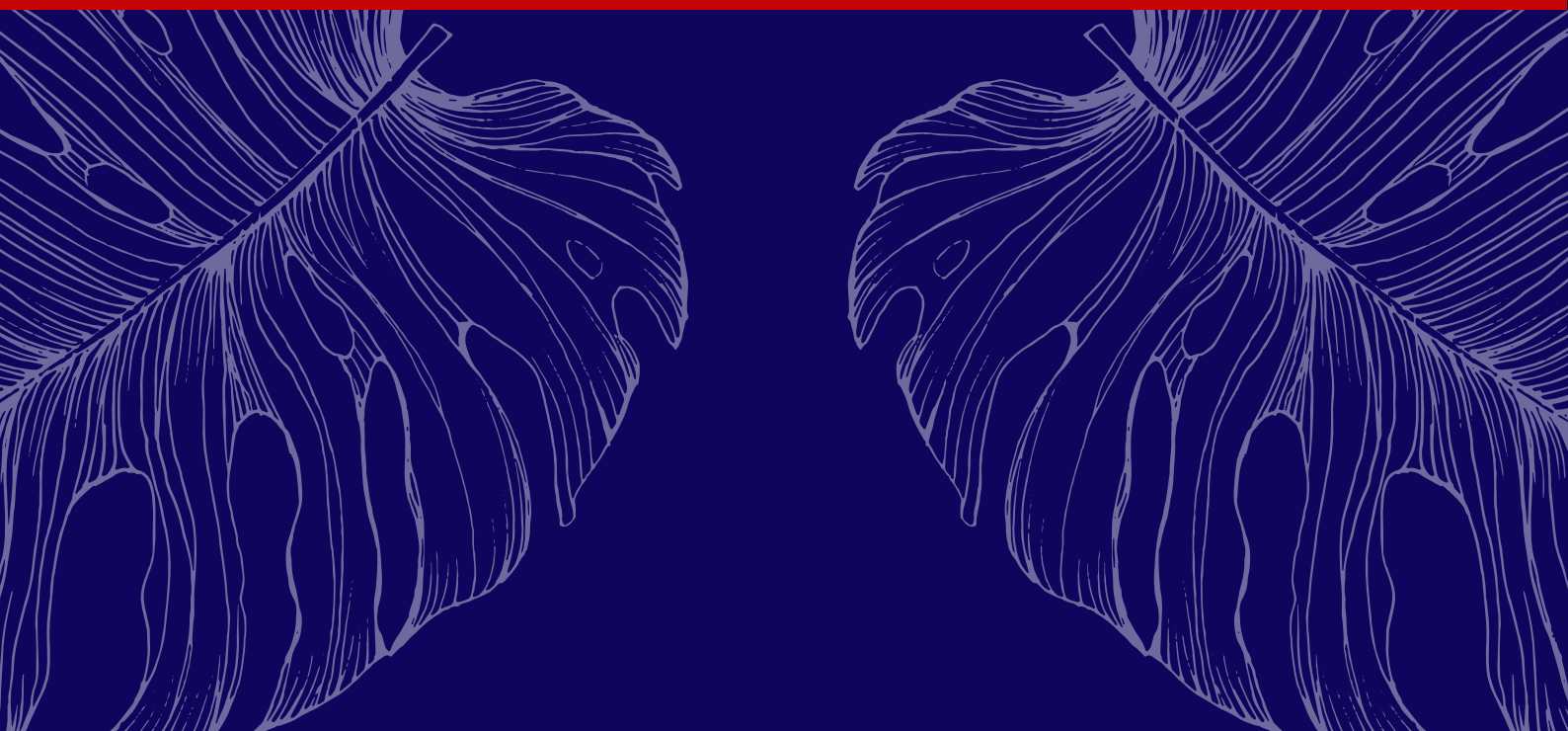
RANGITOTO COLLEGE

2026



WELCOME TO OUR

PACIFICA NUSIPEPA



LEADERS UPDATE



Lopo Nai, YR 13, Tongan

2026 PACIFICA LEADER

This term has been incredibly busy and rewarding for our Pacific students. A major highlight was Samoan Language Week, where we celebrated culture through a range of fun and engaging activities. Our students organised and sold delicious panikeke, ran a successful ula lole (lolly lei) workshop, took part in traditional games such as lape, and performed traditional dances at lunchtime. These activities gave the wider school community a wonderful opportunity to learn about and celebrate Samoan language and heritage. Throughout the term, our students have also been dedicated to regular dance practices as we prepare for upcoming cultural performances. We were immensely proud to perform at the recent Year 10 Special Assembly, sharing our vibrant culture with the wider school community. Furthermore, within our Pacific tutor class, students have continued to lead our morning prayers while learning and singing traditional songs. This has helped strengthen our cultural knowledge and creates a welcoming, grounded start to each day. We look forward to another successful term ahead!

Lopo Nai, Yr13, Tongan

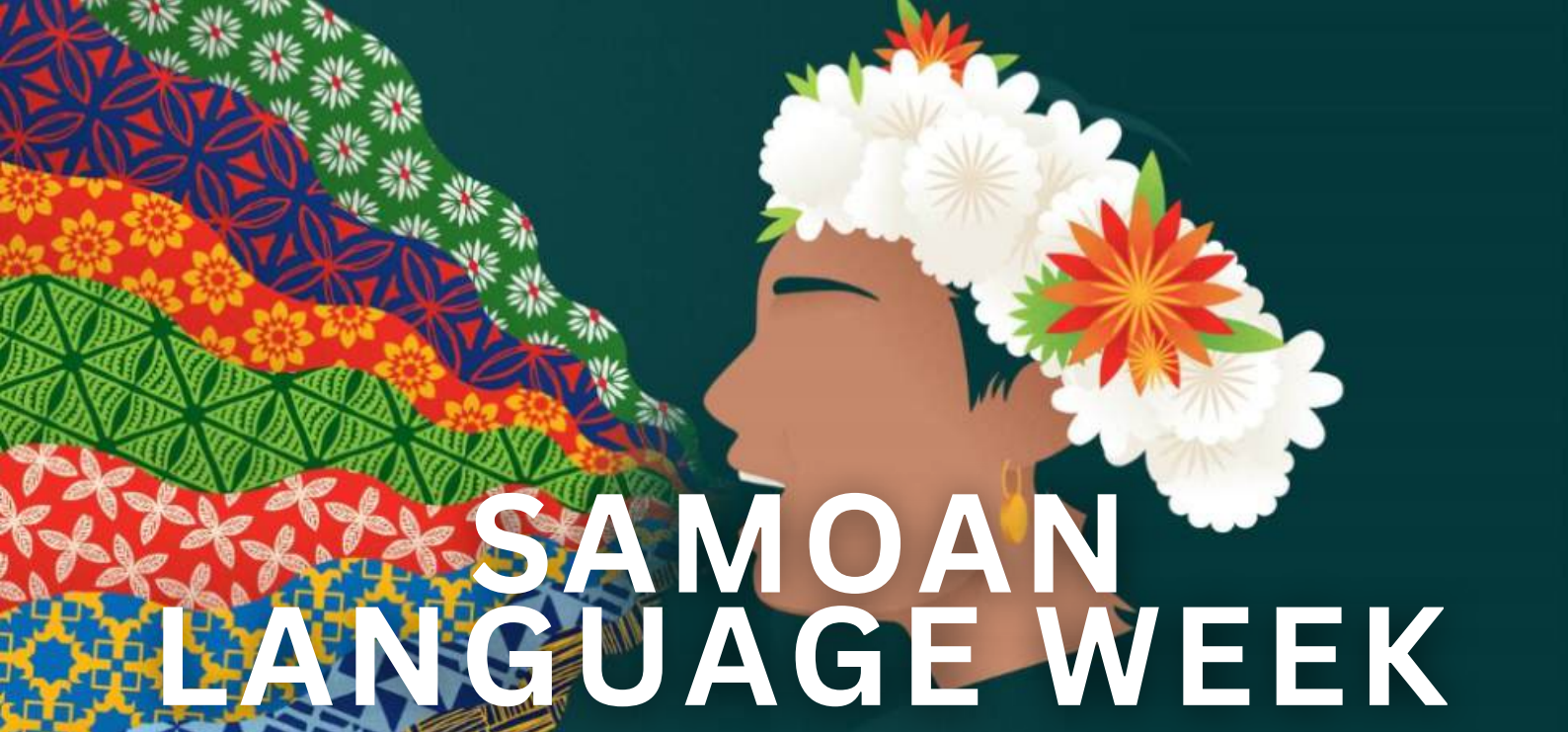


Leila Curry YR 13, Samoan

2026 PACIFICA LEADER

Our Term 2 activities played a key role in building and enhancing our vibrant Pacific culture within the school. Seeing so many staff and students come out to support our lunchtime dance group performance and buy panikeke was incredibly special for our cohort. The true success of the week was how it brought our Pacific students together in unity. Our Samoan Siva group is currently the biggest it has ever been! Formally led by our students, Rita, Terri, and Queencess, our group has been working hard on separate routines for both boys and girls, as well as a combined performance. Moving into Term 3, our goal is to learn the Sasa together as a whole group. Finally, as part of our legacy, Lopo and I wanted to leave a lasting piece of ourselves within our Pasifika cohort. To achieve this, we are currently designing a custom Pacific Service Tie that honours our vibrant heritage and ensures our leaders stand out with pride and unity. This tie symbolises our journey, our roots, and our hope to inspire the next generation of Pacific leaders coming through Rangitoto College.

Leila Curry, Yr13, Samoan



SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

Celebrating Samoan Language Week at Rangitoto College

'E afua mai i mauga tetele manuia o le nu'u - From the high mountains are the blessings of the village.

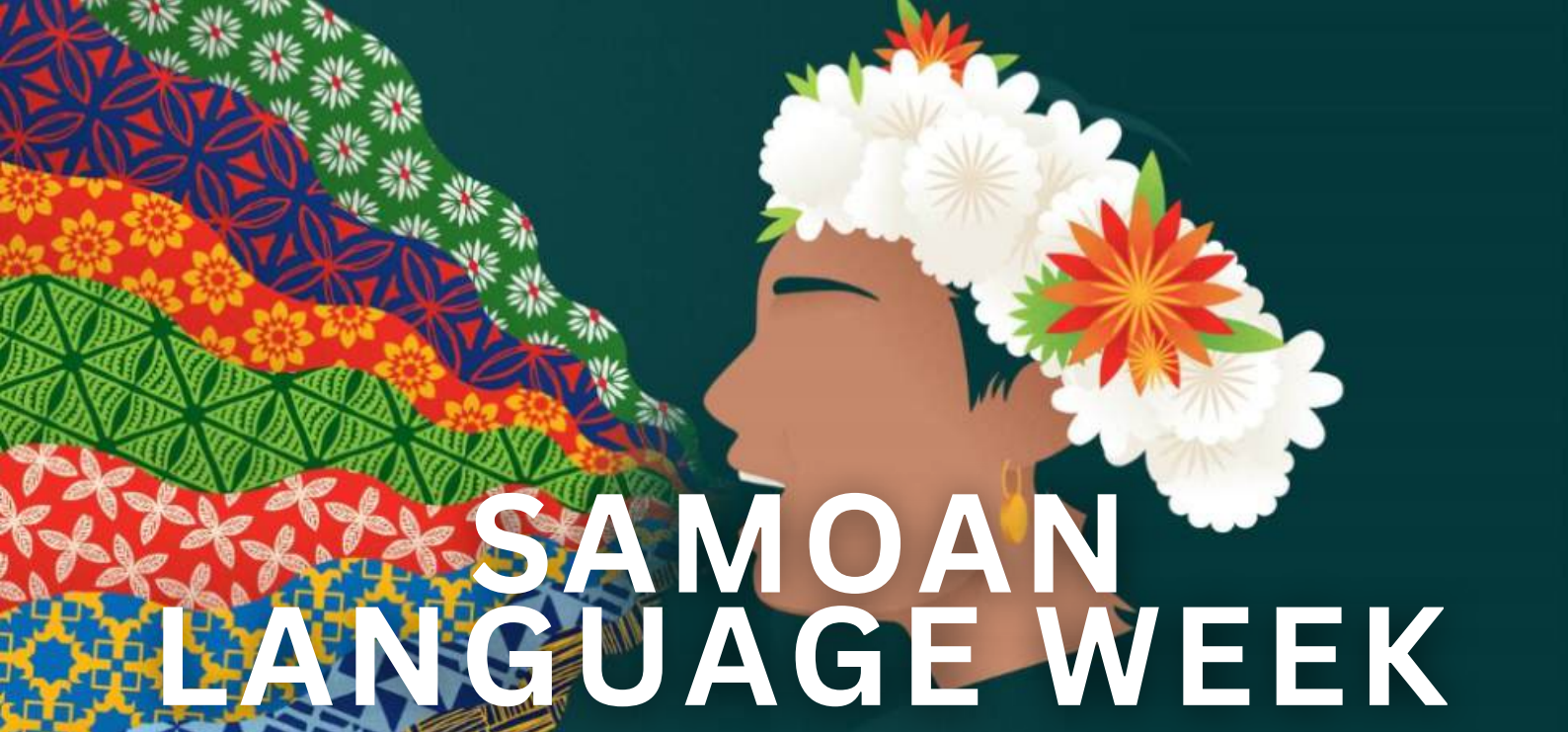
This beautiful proverbial expression served as the official theme for Samoan Language Week in 2026. Deeply rooted in the Samoan environment, this proverb reminds us of how our ancestors relied on the natural world—the mountains, the forests, and the oceans as the core source of sustenance, life, and blessings for the community. The word afua signifies the very beginning or core of something. At Rangitoto College, our vibrant week of celebrations proved that our small but incredibly mighty Pacific community is at the very core of our school's cultural blessings.

Seeing the absolute joy, vibrant energy, and pride in our students throughout the week was incredibly moving, bringing our entire kura together in celebration.

To immerse our wider school community in the beautiful Samoan language, students and staff were challenged to learn and speak a new Samoan Phrase of the Day throughout the week. Our kura echoed with beautiful new sounds as everyone practiced these daily expressions:

- Tuesday: Manuia le Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa – Happy Samoan Language Week
- Wednesday: O le a lau vasega o soso'o ai? – What is your next class?
- Thursday: Ia manuia le aso – Have a good day
- Friday: Ia manuia le po – Have a good night





SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

Teamwork and Tradition:

Our active celebrations kicked off with a fast-paced game of Lape. Similar to softball but with a distinct cultural twist, players hit the ball with their bare hands rather than a bat. Rooted deeply in Samoan community culture, Lape celebrates teamwork and connection. Our students brought their competitive spirits, massive smiles, and plenty of laughter to a truly fun-filled lunchtime.

A Sweet Success in E3:

E3 was absolutely packed to the brim for our Ula Lole (Lolly Lei) workshop. It was an instant hit! Seeing so many students from all different backgrounds completely immersed in learning how to craft these beautiful, traditional treats was a highlight of the week. The room was buzzing with creativity, and of course, everyone thoroughly enjoyed eating their chocolates afterward!

The Grand Finale:

The week culminated on Friday with a spectacular lunchtime celebration. The aroma of fresh, delicious panikekes filled the air as students gathered to watch our Siva group take the stage. The students performed beautifully, overcoming any pre-performance nerves to showcase the elegance, grace, and pride of Samoan culture. Standing tall in front of their peers, they represented their families and heritage with absolute dignity.

A massive thank you to all the staff, student leaders, and families who supported this incredibly successful Samoan Language Week!



Pacific Excellence:

Behind the scenes of the Rangitoto College Prospectus

This term, two of our incredible Pacific students, Moziah Kolo (Year 11) and Livi Dakuidreketi (Year 12), were selected to be part of the official Rangitoto College Prospectus! They were asked to share their personal journeys and reflect on what our dedicated Pacific space has offered them.

Their powerful words perfectly capture the heart of our cohort, and we are so proud to share this with our whānau.



Moziah Kolo, YR 11, Tongan

Walking into a school as large as Rangitoto College can feel pretty daunting at first. But for our Pacific students, we have a specialised space that immediately feels like home. Every single morning, our journey starts right here in our Pacific Tutor Class.

The heart of this room is connection and support. We have incredible tutor teachers who are entirely dedicated to making sure every single one of us feels supported, seen, and valued across all spaces of the kura. What makes this space extra special is our leadership. Our Year 13 Pacific leaders are always in the room, working right alongside our tutor teachers to motivate us, push us toward excellence, and inspire us to be the best versions of ourselves. At Rangitoto College, you don't have to leave your culture at the gate. Our Pacific tutor class is where we celebrate who we are, push each other to succeed, and grow together as one family.

Mālō 'aupito, and fa'afetai lava.



Livi Dakuidreketi, YR 12, Fijian

Being of Fijian heritage, I am heavily involved in the Pasifika space here at Rangitoto College. This school has really helped me in connecting with my culture and has also opened many opportunities for me to learn and become involved in other Pacific cultures as well. In Year 10, I was given the opportunity to start and teach the Fijian Meke (dance) group. Our unique tutor space provides an incredibly warm, supportive environment where I can connect daily with other Pacific students who share similar values, beliefs, and cultural practices. Together, we learn traditional prayers and songs across multiple languages, including Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Cook Island, and Māori. Engaging in these languages has built a powerful sense of unity, ensuring that no matter which island we call home, we are connected as one family.

Being part of these spaces has consistently pushed me out of my comfort zone, encouraging me to try new things and grow into a confident leader. Rangitoto College has shown me that standing strong in your culture is the key to standing strong in your education.

Vinaka vakalevu.



SPECIAL ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCE

At the Year 10 Special Assembly, the cohort was treated to a spectacular, deeply moving performance by our Samoan Siva group.

The word Siva is the Samoan word for dance, but to our students, it is so much more than just a performance. It is a vital form of storytelling, ancestral connection, and cultural preservation. Through every deliberate movement, the dancers mimic elements of the natural world, community life, and Pacific history.

This performance marked a massive milestone for the group: it was the very first time they took the stage to perform their combined boys and girls routine. Watching them up there, the energy in the auditorium was completely electric. Our girls danced with breathtaking grace and elegance, while our boys brought immense passion, strength, and pride to the stage.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that the entire routine was completely student-led. The choreography was created and taught by three of our beautiful students: Rita, Terri, and Queencess. These girls have done an absolutely phenomenal job all term, dedicating their time, patience, and leadership to teaching this dance to a group that is now the biggest it has ever been.

Representing a beautiful range of heritages from across the Pacific Islands, these students stood tall and truly shone. They made themselves, their families, and our entire school community incredibly proud.

A massive congratulations to our dancers and student tutors!
You are a true blessing to our kura!



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 E3 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 honour 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

Queencess Lolouta, Y11, Samoan



DANCE GROUPS PT2

COOK ISLANDS



Kia orana kâtoatoa, 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, Pipiwharauoa 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

As we bring Term 2 to a close, we want to take a moment to express just how incredibly proud we are of our beautiful Pacific students. Over the course of the last ten weeks, we have witnessed an amazing shift as our students have truly learned to take the reins and drive this space forward. From taking the initiative to design their own lunchtime activities, to independently selecting the prayers and traditional songs they want to teach in class, their growth has been a joy to watch.

Seeing their unwavering consistency with lunchtime dance practices in the lead-up to the Year 10 Special Assembly was a massive highlight for us. But what has been truly heartwarming is hearing the students themselves express that they want to perform again for the Term 3 special assemblies. This is exactly what happens when you open up genuine opportunities for our Pacific students; they step up, they take initiative, and they lead with absolute pride. We will forever be standing right behind them, cheering them on.

Lyric Koria and Carmelita Maletino



Upcoming Events

We are not slowing down! Term 3 is shaping up to be another massive, vibrant, and exciting term for our cohort. Here is a sneak peek at what we have coming up:

- **Open Week & Enrolment Evening:** Our dance groups have been asked to perform and warm the floor for incoming parents and future Rangitoto students, showcasing our cultural heart right from the outset.
- **Pacific Language Weeks:** We will be celebrating both Tongan Language Week and Fijian Language Week with school-wide activities,
- **Our Term 3 Pacific Whānau Hui:** Another beautiful night to bring our community together, share food, and celebrate our collective milestones.

There are so many exciting milestones on the horizon, and we are so incredibly grateful to be on this journey with our students. Thank you to all of our whānau for your ongoing love and support this term. Have a safe, restful, and blessed holiday break, and we will see you all in Term 3!