

TERM 3

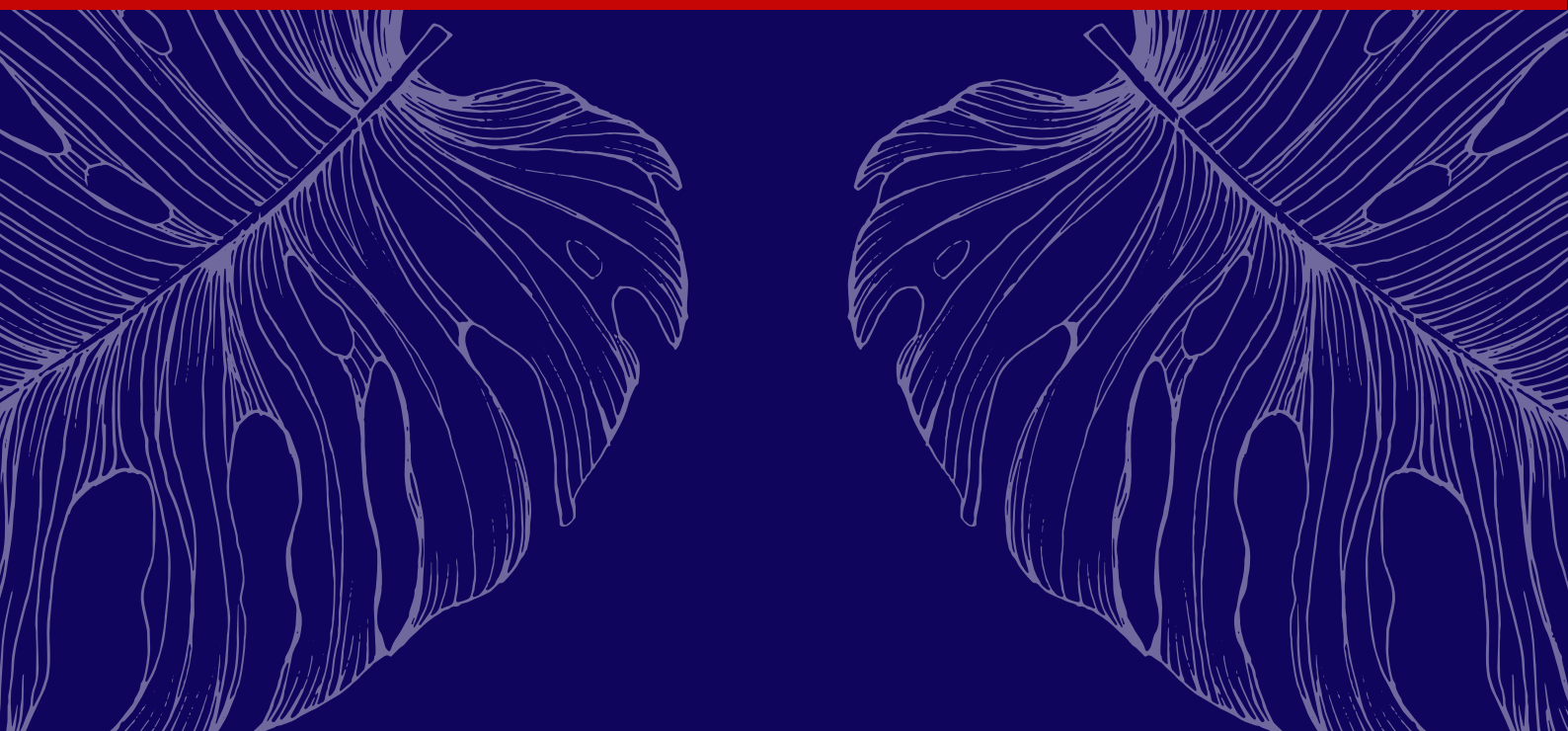
RANGITOTO COLLEGE

2026



WELCOME TO OUR

PACIFICA NUSIPEPA



LEADERS UPDATE



Lopo Nai, YR 13, Tongan

2026 PACIFICA LEADER

Mālō e lelei! During Tongan Language Week, our school community turned out in full force. We had an awesome turnout for our lunchtime volleyball game, ran creative lolly lei and sei-making workshops, and brought electric energy to the flagpole with our Tongan performance group. Inside our tutor class, we start every morning together in unity through Samoan, Fijian, and Tongan prayers. One project Leila and I are especially proud of is our Pasifika School Tie initiative. Working alongside Miss Maletino, Miss Korina, Māori Leader Mikey Te Paa, and our student designer Storm, we've been crafting a custom tie design that embeds our Pacific heritage directly into Rangitoto College's uniform. It's a true legacy piece that we are thrilled to leave behind for future generations. As leaders, the absolute highlight of this year has been watching our classmates grow and seeing students from non-Pacific backgrounds join our dance groups. It proves that we've built a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space where everyone feels comfortable learning something new!

- Lopo Nai, Yr13, Tongan



Leila Curry YR 13, Samoan

2026 PACIFICA LEADER

Tālofa everyone! Throughout 2026, our Pacific tutor class and cultural space have made incredible strides. Our dance groups look the most vibrant they've looked in years, and our shared cultural knowledge continues to grow every single day. Term 3 was packed with energy as we celebrated our Pacific Language Weeks. Our school came together for hands-on activities and traditional games. Our dance groups performed and we saw so many students come along to experience various Pacific cultures. For Cook Island Language Week, our lolly lei workshop packed out the classroom with students from all different cultural backgrounds. Our Samoan and Tongan dance groups have expanded significantly this year. It's been amazing to showcase our talents across the school from Special Assembly performances to flagpole performances. We can't wait to perform for you all one last time at the upcoming Māori & Pasifika Success Evening!

- Leila Curry, Yr13, Samoan



TONGAN LANGUAGE WEEK

Celebrating Tongan Language Week at Rangitoto College

In Week 5 of Term 3, Rangitoto College came alive as we celebrated Tongan Language Week with incredible energy, cultural pride, and vibrant community spirit. This year's national theme, "Ko 'etau hiva, ko e fe'unu mahu'inga ia ki he mo'ui 'a e Tonga" – "Our music is a vital strand of our Tongan culture," anchored our week as our Pacific community brought our kura together in celebration.

The celebrations kicked off with our students proudly speaking at year-level assemblies and staff briefings where they shared the significance of the week and invited everyone to participate. To encourage language learning, students shared daily Tongan 'Phrases of the Day' videos, giving staff and students a fun, accessible way to incorporate Lea Faka-Tonga into their daily interactions.

Throughout the week, our Pacific students hosted a series of engaging lunchtime workshops and activities:

- Tuesday: Students led a craft workshop teaching peers how to handcraft beautiful sei flowers to wear behind the ear.
- Wednesday: A high-energy lunchtime volleyball match brought out fierce, friendly competition and loud cheers from the sidelines.
- Thursday: The ever-popular lolly lei workshop saw a massive turnout, with students crafting (and sampling!) delicious chocolate goodies.
- Friday: The week culminated in a beautiful showcase of traditional Tongan dance, featuring powerful performances from both our Tongan boys and girl groups.

A standout highlight was seeing our Pacifica tutor class step into leadership roles, teaching traditional songs and dances to their peers. It was a privilege for students and teachers alike to watch our young people lead with such confidence and pride.

A massive thank you to all the students, staff, and whānau who supported, participated, and brought such unity and vibrancy to our school. Mālō 'aupito!



TONGAN LANGUAGE WEEK



COOK ISLAND LANGUAGE WEEK

Celebrating Cook Island Language Week at Rangitoto College

From Monday the 3rd of August to Friday the 7th of August, Rangitoto College acknowledged Cook Islands Language Week. This year's national theme was: "Me kite koe i te tuatua i to'ou reo tupuna, e turanga rangatira tena nō'ou no te uki amuri atu" – With our language as our foundation, we will embrace the future. To celebrate the week, our Pacific student leaders and tutor class hosted a vibrant Lolly Lei Workshop on Friday lunchtime in E12.

The turnout was fantastic, with a packed classroom of students from all different cultural backgrounds coming together to learn the art of crafting traditional lolly leis. It was an awesome afternoon filled with music, laughter, island treats, and sweet creations!

A big thank you to all the students and staff who came along to support, share in the culture, and celebrate our Cook Island students!



Leading Through Service: Pacifica Servant Leadership at the Year 12 Leadership Programme

Reflection Exercise - Lopo

” “Leaders don't create followers- they create more leaders”

This proverb means that a true leader's goal isn't to get people to blindly obey them, but to help others build the confidence and skills to make decisions and lead on their own.

It was an incredible honour for Lopo Nai, Miss Koria and Miss Maletino to present Session 6: Servant Leadership as part of the Year 12 Leadership Programme. Speaking to a room full of aspiring student leaders, the goal was to share a Pacifica lens on what it truly means to lead, shifting the focus away from individual recognition and towards community and culture.

The session began by laying a cultural foundation rooted in the Samoan concept of Le Vā- the relational space between people. Drawing insight from Lana Lopesi's work and visual reflections like the breathing scene from the film Tinā, the presentation highlighted that even when standing in our own individual spaces, we remain in active, continuous relationship with one another. Leadership in a Pacifica context starts with understanding, respecting, and nurturing (Teu Le Vā) these sacred spaces to maintain harmony, mutual respect, and trust across our school community.

A core message of the presentation brought to life by Miss Lyric Koria was the principle of "Leading Without a Badge." True leadership is not defined by a title, a position, or a physical badge pinned to a uniform. A badge is merely something you wear, but real leadership is demonstrated through daily choices, character, and care for others. Leadership lives in quiet, behind-the-scenes actions:

- Service in Action: Wiping down tables, putting away chairs after assembly, and packing away equipment without needing to be asked.
- Hospitality: Preparing food, washing dishes, and ensuring others are fed and comfortable first.
- Lifting Others: Encouraging peers and creating space for others to shine.

When leadership requires a badge, only a select few get to lead. But when leadership is recognised as service (Tautua), 100% of our students can be leaders every single day.

Throughout the session, students explored the core pillars that guide Pacifica servant leadership:

1. Tautua (Service First): Action precedes recognition. True authority and respect are earned not by standing above others or being the loudest in the room, but by serving family, school, and community with humility and love.
2. Aiga & Community: Recognising that we belong to something larger than ourselves. Our achievements reflect our families, ancestors, and school community ("It's not about me, it's about us").
3. Teu Le Vā (Nurturing Relationships): Preserving peace, unity, and deep-rooted respect in every interaction.

As Lopo Nai shared during his reflection, "True leadership is about serving behind the scenes and helping others succeed without expecting anything in return. If I can help someone else grow, then I've done my job as a servant leader."

Session 6 left everyone deeply inspired by the warmth of Pacific values. In our school and community, your impact will never be measured by what you wear on your collar, but by the light you shine on others and the hands you extend to serve.

Reflection Exercise - Miss Koria

” “O le ala i le pule o le tautua”
The pathway to leadership is through service.

This proverb defines true leadership as a responsibility grounded in humility and love for one's community. By prioritizing our aiga and culture over status, we build trust and unity, proving that authority is not a pedestal, but a commitment to serve others.

Reflection Exercise - Miss Maletino

” e lele le toloa ae ma'au i le vai” - the toloa bird flies far, but will always return to the water

This proverb is a powerful reminder that while life may take us far, our roots, our culture and our community will always hold a special place in our heart. When we feel anchored in our identity and our community, we have the courage to fly.



Pacifica Family Fono

In Week 6 of Term 3, Rangitoto College came together for a heartwarming and memorable evening at our Pacifica Family Fono. Designed to celebrate our Pacific students, connect with their families, and share in a vibrant evening of fellowship and delicious kai, the night was a powerful reflection of whanaungatanga and community pride.

The entire evening was planned and run by our Pacific tutor class, showcasing student voice and agency at its finest. Year 12 student leaders Aysha Ireland and Knox Tagaloa did a phenomenal job stepping into their roles as emcees, guiding our whānau and staff through the night with warmth, confidence, and humour.

The gathering opened with a traditional Samoan prayer and hymn, setting a peaceful and welcoming tone before families gathered to enjoy shared kai. Following dinner, our 2026 Pacific Student Leaders, Leila Curry and Lopo Nai, delivered an inspiring leadership update. They shared highlights from our successful Samoan, Tongan, and Cook Islands Language Weeks, celebrated the growth of our Pacific tutor class, and unveiled an exciting new legacy initiative: a custom Pacifica school tie.

A major highlight of the night was hearing from our special guest speaker, former NZ Warriors, Kiwis, and Toa Samoa legend Ali Lauiti'ti. Ali spoke with deep wisdom about his experiences in professional sports and his passionate work in youth mental health and wellbeing, delivering a grounded, inspiring message that resonated deeply with both our young people and their parents.

The evening concluded with a series of beautiful cultural showcases, including items from our Samoan student dance leaders, a high-energy performance from our Tongan boys, and a grand finale combined Samoan performance. Seeing our young people take the stage with such grace, pride, and skill was a truly special moment for all the families in attendance.

The night finished with a Tongan prayer and closing song, leaving everyone nourished in spirit, connected, and immensely proud of our Pacific students.

A massive thank you to all the families, staff, Senior Leadership Team members, and Pasifika students who made this evening such an incredible success. Fa'afetai lava and mālō 'aupito!



SPECIAL ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCE

At the Year 13 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 ākonga, 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 second time they took the stage to perform their combined boys and girls routine, following their performance for the Year 10 Special Assembly in Term 2. Watching them on stage, 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 performance.

The choreography was crafted and taught by three of our wonderful students: Rita, Terri, and Queencess, along with valuable contributions to the boys' routine from parent, Ian Tuputala. They have done an absolutely phenomenal job all term, dedicating their time, patience, and leadership to teaching a group that is now the largest it has ever been. Representing a beautiful range of heritages from across the Pacific Islands, the Samoan Siva group stood tall and truly shone. They made themselves, their whānau, and our entire school community incredibly proud.

A massive congratulations to our dancers and 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 look back on Term 3, we want to express our deepest pride and gratitude for our incredible Pacific ākonga. Term 3 was an intensely busy, high-energy term filled with Language Weeks, dynamic dance showcases, practice exams, and demanding academic commitments. Through it all, our students have shown immense grit, dedication, and cultural pride.

We have witnessed a colossal step up from our students in promoting and leading the Pacific space across the whole kura. Seeing our young people carry themselves with such confidence and pride has been a truly beautiful thing to witness:

- Initiative & Forward Planning: From filming Language Week promotional videos well in advance to designing and hanging posters across the school, our students have completely taken ownership of their events.
- Resilience & Commitment: We even had students who were injured and unable to dance, yet still showed up to every practice, learned the choreography from the sidelines, and jumped right back in the moment they recovered.
- Heartfelt Leadership: Seeing our students lead so naturally at the Pacifica Family Fono in front of their parents and whānau was easily one of the most heartwarming moments of the term.

The genuine love, respect, and support our students have for their peers, their whānau, and this space is the absolute heart of our program. When given the room to lead, our Pacific students don't just step up, they shine.

As we head into Term 4, we remain steadfast in our commitment to standing right behind them, supporting their growth, and celebrating every success.

Lyric Koria and Carmelita Maletino



Upcoming Events

We are hitting the ground running! Term 4 is a short, sharp, and momentous term as we celebrate our ākonga and prepare them for end-of-year milestones. Here is what we have coming up on the horizon:

- **Māori & Pasifika Success Evening (Week 2 — Thursday, 22nd October)**

This is the absolute highlight of our school calendar! The evening recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements, leadership, sporting, and academic contributions of our Māori and Pacific ākonga. Our Māori and Pacific students will be taking total ownership of the night—emceeing, performing, and running operations both on and off stage. We warmly invite all staff, whānau, and community members to join us for kai from 6:00 pm, followed by the ceremony at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium, as we celebrate our young people on this special occasion.

Senior Study Leave & External NCEA Exams

- Years 12 & 13: Our senior students will wrap up their timetabled classes midway through the term to go on study leave before undertaking their external NCEA exams.
- Year 11: Our Year 11 ākonga are busy gearing up for their final assessments and exams as they work towards achieving their Rangitoto diploma credits.

Junior Exams (Years 9 & 10)

- Our Year 9 and 10 students will be finalising their learning unit and preparing for their end-of-year junior exams. We encourage all our junior ākonga to stay focused, attend tutorial support, and finish the year strong!

Thank you to all of our whānau and staff for your unwavering support, love, and encouragement throughout 2026.

Let's make this final term our best one yet!