



TUAKAU COLLEGE

Pal rawa atu i nga mea katoa . The very best in all things

KŌRERO

**TAAHIKO PAANUI • KAUPAPA 2 • HUI-TANGURU 2026
E-BULLETIN • ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2026**



Student Leadership Team 2026

See inside for more information!

INSIDE this issue

*I roto i tenei
putanga*

*Swimming Champs
results + photos*

**ATHLETICS DAY
PHOTOS AND RESULTS**

2026 Term 1 Calendar



**Tangaroa
Blue House**

Tangaroa is the 'god of the sea.'
Māori believe that water is an energy, with many moods. It can be calm and life-giving, or dangerous and destructive. This energy is called Tangaroa – 'god of the sea.'

Congratulations Tuakau College - best NCEA results at L1, L2 and L3 in the district! Miharo!



Koorero a te Tumuaki The Principal speaks:

Kia ora koutou katoa!

Congratulations to all the Year 11, 12 and 13 students from 2025. Our 2025 NCEA results are the best results in the district at Level 1, 2 and 3! The students should be proud of what they have achieved and earned. This has come down to all the hard work students have put into their studies but also to the hard work staff have completed ensuring students get the results they should get.

CONTINUED INSIDE...
PAGE 1

Koorero a te Tumuaki Haere tonu The Principal speaks continued:

... Our overall pass rates are: Level 1: 73%, Level 2: 87% and Level 3: 85%. Level 1 rates are lower than previous years and this was to be expected because of the new requirements for Literacy and Numeracy, but it was noticeable that the Level 1 rates were low across the country. We were well above the National average and Equity Index average. We are tracking in the right direction and our intention is to continue to build on these results into the future. Staff will continue to work hard on increasing our endorsement rates as well as the overall pass rates. Awesome! Tuumeke!

Students have settled into their classes and into school. Week 4 of a nine week term is going very quickly. A lot has happened over the past 4 weeks, and it is only going to get busier.

Students should have set academic goals this year and then put in a plan to achieve these. Achieving does not happen if they do not plan for it to happen. Students should have a balance between social life and school life. They need to ensure all their requirements for school are met and that they have outside activities to complement their studies. Students can get stressed with the workload and they have all been informed by the Guidance team that they have support within the school to help them get through the hard times. Many of the students do use these avenues.

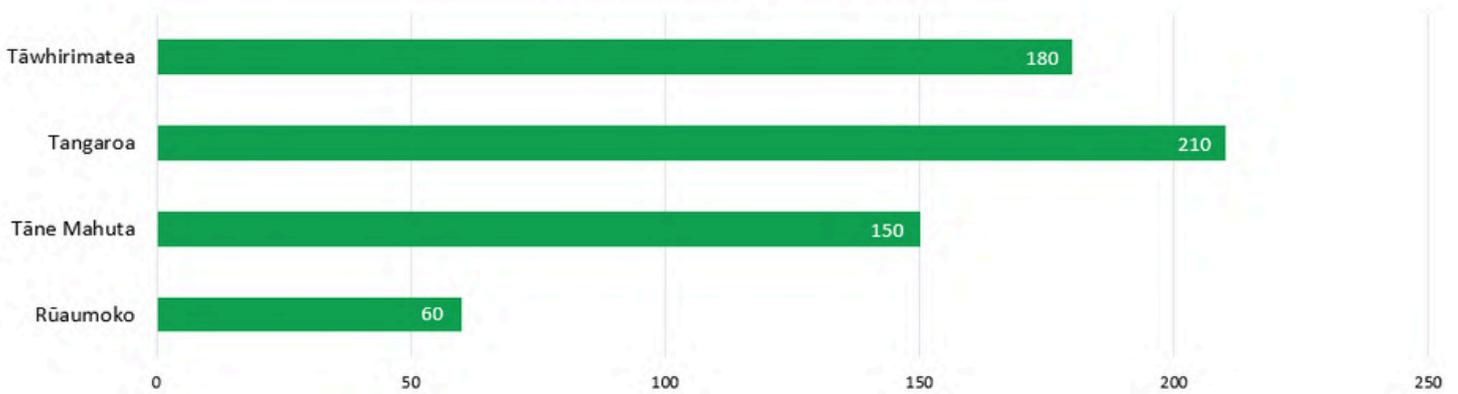
This year we have had a big push in several areas. Our expectations will not waver in these areas.

1. Attending school is imperative if the students want to do well in their studies. There is a positive correlation between attendance and doing well at school and in NCEA. We want to work with whaanau to ensure students are at school, get to class on time, and get to school on time. The Deans, Whaanau teachers and Senior Leadership Team will work hard to improve attendance to the levels they should be at. The Ministry of Education want students to attend 90%+ all the time. This can only be achievable with a big push in attendance.
2. Increased expectations around the wearing of school uniform. We are a uniform school and we have been informing students about what the uniform code is and what we expect from them. The student body has responded positively to the 'uniform blitz' and the uniform has improved immensely. Thank you to parents/caregivers for your ongoing support in this area and thank you to the students for the positive response.
3. Students should be prepared for learning. We have had a big push to ensure when the students are in class they have and use the tools for learning. This does include a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) device. Students must bring their device to school to use in the classroom. We have a limited number of devices to lend out, and we would like to encourage students that do have devices to use their own. Much of the curriculum and lessons now require students to engage using a device. There are no excuses for students not to engage in their learning without a book and a pen to record what they are learning.
4. We are working on building on our school culture by getting all the students to know the school motto, logo meaning, school song and eventually the school haka. These items make us distinctly 'Tuakau College' and we will preserve these icons and build on them as a school grows. Distractions like the 'juggernaut of change' that sweeps through education should not hinder the work in this area. We cannot forget who we are, where we have come from and where we are going to. Part of this is participating in the sporting events we hold every year. So far Rounders, Athletics and Swimming Champs have been run and have been very successful. We have Swimming Tabloids this Friday. Participation is the key to these events and we want to see as many of the students participating. Each event generates house points and develops house (whare) spirit and camaraderie.
5. We have also re-formalised our assemblies. Thank you to Whaea Kelly Hemana for this 'revamp.' Students were engaged at our recent formal assembly, and I want to thank all the students for this.
6. We have had a few incidents where students still think it is alright to use physical violence to deal with a dispute. Students have all been given a clear message that it is totally unacceptable to use physical violence. I can assure the school community that we will not tolerate this and will use the tools given to us to deal with such issues. As a restorative school we will get students together to resolve issues as well as use stand-down and suspension. One thing we will not waver from is that this school is going to be a safe learning environment for all students.

We're already into March next week and nearly half way through Term 1! I look forward to seeing all the great things our students do and achieve in the rest of the term!

Chris Betty

House Points Update 2026



VISION: Ka whakarite kareti o Tuakau i ngā ākonga kia whai tāna e tōmina nei, kia kōunga tonu tana kete mātauranga. Tuakau College prepares students for life through a quality education promoting excellence in all things.	STRATEGIC GOALS - TUAKAU COLLEGE WILL:	Me ārahi i ngā whanaketanga o te rohe o te Ao hurihuri. Lead local developments in a continuously changing world.	Kia noho hei manawa o te hapori kia hiahia te katoa. Be the heart of the community where everyone wants to be.	MANAAKI, AROHA + WHAKAUTE CARING, LOVE + RESPECT He aha te mea nui o te Ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.	NGĀKAU TAPATAHI INTEGRITY Kāua e takahia te mana o te tāngata. Do not trample on the mana of the people.	Ū TONUTANGA PERSEVERANCE Kāua e mate wheke mate mangōpare. Don't give up like an octopus but fight like a hammerhead shark.	TINO PAI RAWA EXCELLENCE Pai rawa atu i ngā mea katoa. The very best in all things.
---	---	--	---	---	---	--	--

Term 1 School Value Wāhanga 1 Kura Uara

At our kura we have four school values and we focus on one value each term of the year. These values are an integral part of our school and we want all of our students to display them in their day to day life, not only at school but also outside of school.

In Term One we focus on 'Manaaki, Aroha + Whakaute - Caring, Love + Respect.' Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they're different from you or you don't agree with them. We can show 'Caring, Love + Respect' by talking openly and honestly with each other, listening to each other, valuing each others feelings and needs, compromising, speaking kindly about others, giving each other space, supporting each others interests/hobbies and building each other up.

Equestrian Kaieke hoiho



On Wednesday 25 February Sammy Kull (Year 8 student) competed at the Waikato Schools Show Jumping Champs. Sammy represented Tuakau college as part of a combined team with Hautapu school. She managed some lovely clear SJ rounds with top 10 placings helping score points for the combined teams overall score, seeing them come away with fourth place overall!



Student Leadership Team 2026
Te Rōpū Kaihautū Ākonga 2026



We are proud to introduce to you our senior Student leaders for 2026!



Baylee Hynes
Head Student



Mattias Tafto
Head Student



Hazel McMillan
Head Student



Kahungunu Aubrey-Lindsay
Head Student



Poppy Aislabie
Student Representative
on the Board



Prefect
Tahlia Pearson



Prefect
Max Thomas



Prefect
Cate Harvey



Prefect
Lome' Strydom



Prefect
Eknoor Kaur



Prefect
Kristian Bvutira



Prefect
Rachel Maguire

New students pōwhiri 2026

Ko nga tauira hou pōwhiri 2026



On Monday 2 February we had a pōwhiri to welcome our new students to our kura! This was followed by a few activities and then a barbecue lunch to finish off! It was lovely to see all our new students there and we look forward to all you will achieve at Tuakau College! Thank you to Matua Rima for the whaikōrero and welcoming our new students and staff. A pōwhiri is a key aspect of our college. All visitors (manuhiri) and new students/staff are welcome to our school with this ceremony. All visitors and 'newbies' are tapu (sacred) and with the haka, pōwhiri, the karanga (calls), the whaikōrero and the hongī (nose touch) and hariru (hand shake) the tapu is lifted and the new students/staff become part of our whaanau and school community. Through this we acknowledge and embrace the cultural diversity in our school and what is coming into our school. This sets the scene for the year.



HEALTH CENTRE

Tari Hauora

Hello! We hope everyone is keeping well! If you have a child with medical needs and would like to speak to the nurses, contact us through phone (extension 119) or email us on nurse@tuakaucollege.com.

This is a friendly reminder about the importance of students eating and drinking fluids during the day, especially with the warmer weather. It is heavily encouraged that students have a drink bottle at school if able, and bring food or utilise the free school lunches. We are finding we are getting a large number of kids coming to the Health Centre after lunch with dizziness, headaches and sore stomachs because they haven't had water or food all day. **Please remind your children of the importance of staying hydrated and eating food!**

Year 9 Wellbeing Review

Tuakau College has an agreement with Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau to provide free nursing services on site. The health and wellbeing of students at the school is important to us. The main aim of the clinic is to improve the health of our students, so they come to school well and able to learn. As part of this, one of the school nurses will complete a comprehensive wellbeing review for all consenting Year 9 students. This review will provide an opportunity for our students to discuss their: health/social concerns, medical history, emotional strengths and whānau and community supports, vision and hearing screening, height and weight measurements, nutrition and physical activity. The review is likely to take 30-60 minutes and a referral to other services will be available where needed. It will take place during the school day and there is no cost for the service.

If you have any questions, or if you do not consent to your child having this wellbeing review, please contact the school Nurse by emailing nurse@tuakaucollege.com

Tuakau College School Nurses

Phone: 09 236 8521 ext 119

Rounders Competition 2026 Whakataetae Rounders 2026

On the first day of school for all our students, after a morning of Whaanau House assemblies and Whaanau Class activities, the day was finished off with a whole school Rounders competition! This was the first House Competition of the year.

Congratulations to Tawhirimatea who placed first! Tangaroa placed second, Tane Mahuta placed third and Ruaumoko placed fourth. Well done to all the students that participated and earned valuable points for the Whaanau house that might make all the difference at the end of the year!



<p>VISION: Ka whakarite kareti o Tuakau i ngā ākonga kia whai tāna e tōmina nei, kia kōunga tonu tana kete mātauranga. Tuakau College prepares students for life through a quality education promoting excellence in all things.</p> <p>TUAKAU COLLEGE</p>	<p>STRATEGIC GOALS - TUAKAU COLLEGE WILL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whakawhānui i ngā whai wāhitanga te angitūtanga o ngā ākonga. Maximise opportunities for student achievement. Me ārahi i ngā whanaketanga o te rohe o te Ao hurihuri. Lead local developments in a continuously changing world. Kia noho hei manawa o te hapori kia hiahia te katoa. Be the heart of the community where everyone wants to be. 	<p>MANAAKI, AROHA + WHAKAUTE CARING, LOVE + RESPECT</p> <p>He aha te mea nui o te Ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.</p>	<p>NGĀKAU TAPATAHI INTEGRITY</p> <p>Kaua e takahia te mana o te tāngata. Do not trample on the mana of the people.</p>	<p>Ū TONUTANGA PERSEVERANCE</p> <p>Kaua e mate wheke mate mangōpare. Don't give up like an octopus but fight like a hammerhead shark.</p>	<p>TINO PAI RAWA EXCELLENCE</p> <p>Pai rawa atu i ngā mea katoa. The very best in all things.</p> <p>TUAKAU COLLEGE</p>
---	--	---	---	--	--

Athletics Day 2026
Te Ra Whakataetae 2026

On Monday 16 February we had our 2026 Athletics Day. Congratulations to Tangaroa who took out first place with 1312 points! Tane Mahuta placed second with 1295 points, Tawhirimatea placed third with 1120 points and Ruaumoko placed fourth with 1054 points! Congratulations to the following students who broke school records:

- Karaka Ruka: Equalled Junior Boys - High Jump (1.55m)
- Elroy Vandepitte: Junior Boys - 100m (12.37s)
- Keegan Higgs: Senior Boys - Javelin (30.85m)
- Natacha Moshier: Intermediate Girls - 400m (1:07:68), 800m (2:36:88) and 1500m (5:33:06)

Age group champions were as follows:

Year 7 Boys

1st - Kingston Pritchard

Year 8 Girls

1st - Anastasia Moshier

Intermediate Boys

1st - Jaylan Whiunui-Manukau

Senior Boys

1st - Nian van Loggerenberg

Year 7 Girls

1st - Poaki Kaulave

Junior Boys

1st - Elroy Vandepitte

Intermediate Girls

1st - Natacha Moshier

Senior Girls

1st - Natasha Butler

Year 8 Boys

1st - Dayton Pritchard

Junior Girls

1st - Rylee Williamson

Well done to all the students who participated. To see all photos please visit the Tuakau College Facebook page.



Swimming Champs 2026
Toa Kauhoe 2026



Well done to the students that participated in our Swimming Champs on Friday 20 February. Congratulations to Tawhirimatea who took out first place with 252 points! Tane Mahuta placed second with 150 points, Ruaumoko placed third with 148 points and Tangaroa placed fourth with 105 points!

Congratulations to the following students who broke school records:

- Lome' Strydom: Senior Girls Backstroke (49.37)
- Addison Welch: Senior Girls Butterfly (46.22)

Age group champions were as follows:

Year 7&8 Boys

1st - Benjamin MacNab

Junior Boys

1st - River Missen

Intermediate Boys

1st - Luke Campbell-Cox

Senior Boys

1st - Max Thomas

Year 7&8 Girls

1st - Pippa Missen

Junior Girls

1st - Elizabeth Cammock

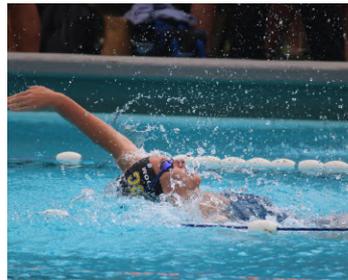
Intermediate Girls

1st - Sulize Strydom

Senior Girls

1st - Lome' Strydom
and Addison Welch

To see all photos please visit the Tuakau College Facebook page!



Tuakau teen has ambitions for Defence Force *He wawata te taiohi o Tuakau mo te Ope Taua*



Exposure to military-style structure and teamwork at a Blue Light Life Skills Camp has sparked interest in the New Zealand Defence Force for Ashley Shepherd, a Year 12 student at Tuakau College, who was recently awarded the Overall Merit Award at the Blue Light Life Skills Camp. The five-day Camp, held from 19 – 23 January at RNZAF Base Whenuapai, played a key role in building Ashley's confidence and shaping her thinking about the future.

"I'm normally shy, and would often stand back and wait for others to take charge, but through the camp, I got better at leadership and communication by working together with my team and helping guide the team through the various activities" she said. Reflecting on the week, she shared how her most challenging parts of the camp were learning how to lead and support others under pressure. "A small number of people didn't want to participate, which made it hard on the rest of the group... We overcame this by either encouraging them to help, or by including them to share ideas, or to help with even the smallest thing." Ashley said "I was very grateful I was chosen, and I couldn't believe I had won it out of all of the other amazing people at the camp. I was very proud that the work that I had put in over the week had paid off."

Blue Light Programme Coordinator Easter Misi said Ashley's attitude and growth stood out across the week. "Ashley is a kind and supportive young woman who consistently demonstrates leadership, resilience, and dedication... Her ability to remain focused on her goals and move forward with confidence makes her a deserving recipient of the Merit Award."

Now preparing to begin Year 12, Ashley says the experience has influenced her interest in a future with the New Zealand Defence Force. "I'm not entirely sure what I want to do as a job, but I am contemplating joining the NZ Defence Force... I like the structure and potential pathways it provides." She encourages other young people to consider the programme. "It is an amazing way to grow, meet new people, and to step out of my comfort zone and develop a lot of new skills... just do it!"

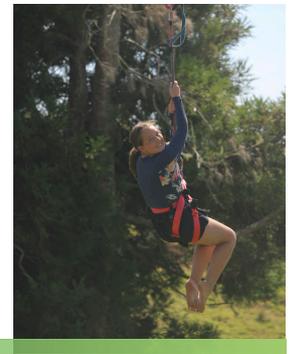
Blue Light's Life Skills Camps, run in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force, provide young people with a unique opportunity to develop confidence, leadership skills, and resilience. This highly successful programme has been run by New Zealand Blue Light in partnership with the NZ Defence Force for the past 14 years and has adventure-based experiential learning as a key part of the programme. The programme provides 14-17-year-olds with critical life skills such as self-development, self-control, and teamwork that will enable young people to be successful at home, school, in communities, and in employment. New Zealand Blue Light is a not-for-profit charity that works in partnership with the Police to create positive connections between young people and the Police, helping young people find direction, fun, and a sense of belonging within their communities, enabling young people to develop life skills, leadership skills, and find employment opportunities. See www.bluelight.co.nz or visit www.facebook.com/nzbluelight for more information.



Year 7 Camp 2026
Tau 7 Camp 2026



Our Year 7 students had an awesome three days at Chosen Valley Christian Camp in Ararimu earlier this week! Students challenged themselves in archery, kayaking, raft building, trolleys, the flying fox, waterslide and more! It was great to see our students bond and encourage each other throughout the camp! A massive thank you to our staff and parent helpers who made the camp possible.



Hollie wins bronze medal at Athletics competition
I toa a Hollie i te tauira parahi i te whakataetae Athletics

Congratulations to Hollie Mahoney (Year 11 student) who competed at the 2026 Auckland Athletics Champs last weekend, and despite very trying conditions of swirling and high winds did exceptionally well. Hollie has only recently turned 15, and she won the silver medal for U18 Women's discus, and set a personal record in the U18 Women's shot put, securing a bronze medal. Great work, Hollie!



**JOIN TEAM
PARAFED WAIKATO
AT THE**



HALBERG GAMES

10-12 APRIL 2026



KINGS COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

**Open to any physically or
visually impaired person
aged 8 - 21**



Register with cathy@parafedwaikato.co.nz

Being a responsible social media user

Te noho hei kaiwhakamahi pāpāho pāpori whai mana



Everywhere you look you see people with their heads down staring at a bright screen, often consumed with the endless communication, information and entertainment that an electronic device provides. Cell phones, tablets, smart watches and computers are everywhere!

Kids and teenagers growing up in this digital age are learning how to use technology at a huge rate of speed. When used appropriately, there are so many positive benefits that come with technology and using social media however there are also many risks and potential harmful consequences to social media use.

One of the best benefits of social media is it allows people to easily stay connected through messaging, video chats or photographs. It can provide opportunities to meet people from all areas of the world without even leaving the comfort of your own home. Social media also provides so many platforms to express feelings, thoughts and opinions. It's a great way to explore and learn more about various interests and stay informed about current events. Social media and technology can help someone develop or discover a community or support network too.

Along with the benefits of social media, risks and negative consequences can arise. Too much social media use can result in lower interaction with family, friends, or co-workers. Exposure to inappropriate content like violence and pornography is highly possible without the use of monitoring and parental control applications. Inappropriate behavior such as bullying, slander, or sending/posting risky pictures can happen because a social media user has a false sense of security behind the screen. Often people don't consider that their digital footprint can last forever.

Lack of sleep or interrupted sleep is another negative side effect of too much social media use. Some people report feeling anxious or depressed after using social media. Pictures and stories often depict someone's "best of the best" or "highlight reel." The pressure to keep posts engaging, picture-perfect and time-worthy can add to feelings of anxiety. It is easy to start comparing your life to someone else's digital life and feel down or not good enough.

Young people have the ability to be in contact with friends all the time, thus leaving them with a sense of no privacy and "too connected" with peers. Despite the constant ability to stay in contact, they can also feel lonely at the same time. Due to apps that share your location or show if a message has been read, it can be apparent if someone is ignoring or not including you.

Listed below are some good reminders about using social media and technology responsibly to make the most of the positive benefits it can offer.

- Develop and tend to your real life relationships and experiences.
- Take an honest self-assessment of your use. How much are you using social media and why?
- Be yourself and be nice!
- Set limits and take breaks. For example, no posting during homework time, shut phone off or keep in another room during sleeping hours, make "technology free" rules with peers and family members.
- Don't share your passwords with friends.
- Learn about privacy settings and review them often.
- Utilize social reporting policies and sites.
- Always think before you post.
- If you're a parent/caregiver, monitor and set limits for your children and teen's social media use, have honest conversations about the benefits and risks, and model appropriate social media and technology use yourself.

Information taken from <https://youthfirstinc.org/using-social-media-responsibly/#:~:text=Set%20limits%20and%20take%20breaks,settings%20and%20review%20them%20often>.



Calendar Maaramataka for Term 1 2026

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THESE ARE INDICATIVE AND COULD CHANGE
A 'WEEK AHEAD' IS POSTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES EACH
SUNDAY WITH UP TO DATE INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.*

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
26 JAN Auckland Anniversary (Public Holiday)	27 Staff Only Day	28 Staff Only Day	29 Course Confirmation	30 Course Confirmation	31	1 FEB
2 New Students Day	3 Whole school starts Rounders Competition	4 Day 1 Timetable starts	5 Day 2	6 Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)	7	8
9 Day 3	10 Day 4	11 Day 5	12 Day 6	13 Day 1	14	15
16 Athletics Day	17 Day 2	18 Day 3	19 Day 4	20 Day 5 Swimming Champs	21	22
23 Year 7 Camp	24 Year 7 Camp Board Meeting	25 Year 7 Camp	26 Day 3	27 Swimming Tabloids	28	1 MAR
2 Day 4	3 Day 5 PhotoLife ID Photos	4 Day 6 Duke of Ed Tramp	5 Day 1 12OUT Survival Tramp Duke of Ed Tramp	6 Day 2 12OUT Survival Tramp Duke of Ed Tramp	7	8
9 Day 3	10 Day 4	11 Day 5	12 Day 6 11OUT Trip - Group 1 Endorsement Assembly	13 Day 1 11OUT Trip - Group 2	14	15
16 Equestrian Comp Small Motors Course	17 Day 3	18 Day 4 Polyfest - Diversity and Pasifika Stages	19 Day 5 12OUT Survival Tramp Polyfest - Diversity and Pasifika Stages	20 Day 6 12OUT Survival Tramp Polyfest - Diversity and Pasifika Stages	21 Polyfest - Diversity and Pasifika Stages	22 Waka Ama Nationals
23 Science Roadshow Waka Ama Nationals	24 Day 2 Waka Ama Nationals	25 Day 3 Year 7&8 Ultra Rip Waka Ama Nationals	26 Day 4 Waka Ama Nationals	27 Day 5 13OUT Trip Waka Ama Nationals	28	29
30 Day 6	31 Day 1 Board Meeting	1 APR Day 2	2 Day 3 Term 1 Ends	3 Good Friday (Public Holiday)	4	5

