

Whangamata Area School

Whangamata, New Zealand

International Student Prospectus



Live and Learn @ the Beach



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Cover Photo: Ella Williams, past student and Women's ASP World Junior Champion



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Welcome



'Kia Ora, Haere Mai'

'Through a positive home school partnership our students will be confident, connected and actively involved lifelong learners'

As an Area School we are ideally placed to provide our students with the skills and attributes that will allow them to thrive in the future. Many of our most successful students spend all of their thirteen years of school with us.

Our school was formed as an Area School in 1985 and it provides quality education to school students in the beautiful coastal town of Whangamata.

Being an Area School, we foster a 'big family' atmosphere where staff, pupils and their families all enjoy the many facilities we have to offer.

The supportive community and experienced teaching staff enables us to offer a balanced education for students of all ages. Each of our students is encouraged to strive for excellence in the classroom and to participate in the sporting, cultural, leadership and outdoor education opportunities available to them. A significant number of students achieve national honours in these areas.

A feature of Whangamata Area School, being a smaller school, is that our students have ready access to staff and community support for their learning.

We are proud of the students we produce, and of their achievement, and we look forward to welcoming you to our community.

Alistair Luke
Principal





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Whangamata is situated only two hours from Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, and only one and a half hour's drive from Auckland International Airport.

Because of the stunning beaches, safe swimming, fantastic surfing and wide range of water sports, Whangamata is a major holiday destination. Our population grows from 4000 to over 30000 during the summer months.

The holiday beach town is bordered by the Coromandel Forest Park and Tairua Forest providing many outdoor experiences including short walks, mountain bike trails, exploring old gold mining sites and pig hunting. Short trails from forestry roads lead to isolated beaches.



Location





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Whangamata Area School is a co-educational school which offers a unique educational opportunity with schooling from Year 1 right through to Year 13. With a growing roll of approximately 430 students, the school is large enough to have the advantages of a range of specialist teachers and facilities, yet small enough to retain the flexibility and pastoral support individual students need. We are able to offer small class sizes throughout the school.



Whangamata Area School is a KORU school (Knowledge, Organisation, Respect and Unity). The school prides itself on offering excellent opportunities for academic success. We have a very effective staff offering the New Zealand National Curriculum.

We are able to offer many additional courses to our senior students through correspondence studies. Senior students are able to access a varied range of subjects that meet both their needs and interests. Our students experience a wide range of cultural and sporting learning experiences outside the classroom.

Area schools have a unique nature; our senior classes are small and provide opportunities for small group and individual support. Most Year 11 classes are fewer than twenty students and many of our Year 12 and 13 classes have ten or fewer students. Attending an Area School our students enjoy advantages not offered in other schools:

- continuity in their education avoiding the disruption of starting new schools at intermediate and secondary levels
- significant leadership opportunities
- a small senior school giving our students the chance to construct 'tailor made' courses with close and full support of highly professional staff - the success of which can be seen in our NCEA results

The Board of Trustees and senior management of the school are committed to fostering high expectations of student achievement; uniform and behaviour; student leadership opportunities; and a close and positive relationship with parents and friends of the school.



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Learn_{inside}



In addition to a normal academic programme and traditional subjects, our students are given the opportunity to select optional subjects including Food Technology, Visual Art and Photography.

Our Values

Manaakitanga- to 'uplift and foster mana' Particularly, the mana of a person expresses itself in their ability to do certain things, in their skills and talents.

Manaakitanga is a value or a principle which is concerned with the uplifting, fostering and nurturing the mana of the person.

Whanaungatanga is a term for interconnectedness and relatedness.

Whanaungatanga is a value about maintaining and fostering relationships. It is about making good connections between people and between people and our world.

It is about understanding that we are all interconnected in some way.



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Learn_{outside}



Whangamata Area School makes great use of its location and unique environment by offering, as part of the curriculum, Outdoor Education, Sports Science and Marine Studies.

Outdoor Education

Students interested in the outdoors and who have moderate fitness levels will learn skills that allow them to experience the fun, challenge and adventure of Outdoor Education. This is a great way for International Students to learn about New Zealand while taking part in the surf camp, bush survival and kayaking expedition.

Sports Science

As well as learning many sports throughout the year, Year 12 students visit Mt Ruapehu in September for the annual skiing trip. All International Students are invited. Join the Mountain Bike group and explore the nearby forest trails.

Marine Studies (Dependent on numbers)

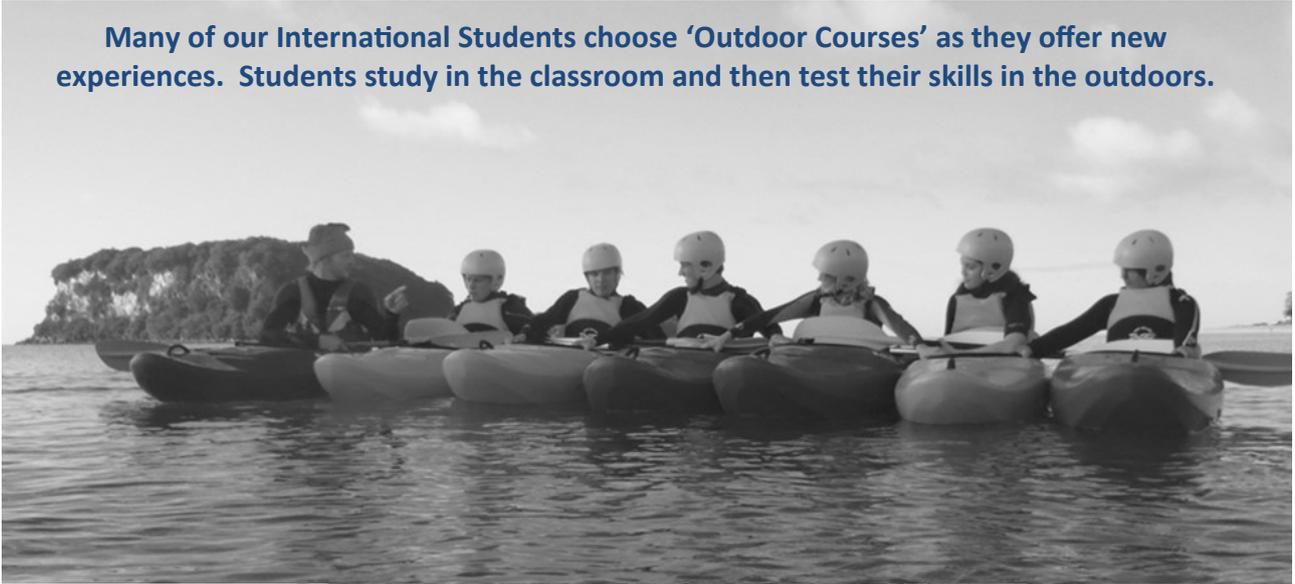
Learn about our ocean waters, study for your Open Water Diving Certificate and visit Tuhua (Mayor Island) Marine Reserve.





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Many of our International Students choose 'Outdoor Courses' as they offer new experiences. Students study in the classroom and then test their skills in the outdoors.





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Enrolment_{procedures}

- **READ** our International Student Policy and Guidelines document. This can be downloaded from our webpage.
- **DOWNLOAD** the International Student Application for Enrolment form. Once the form has been completed and all required documentation attached, send to the school.
- **ON RECEIPT** of the application the school will evaluate the application and if acceptable a Conditional Offer of Place letter and an invoice will be sent.
- **WHEN** full payment of fees has been made, the school will send you a Confirmed Offer of Place letter and a receipt. You will need these documents when you apply for your student visa with Immigration New Zealand at your closest Embassy.
- **FULL** details of student visa requirements and advice on employment while studying can be found on the Immigration New Zealand website at www.immigration.govt.nz
- **ONCE** your visa and flight has been finalised you send details of your arrival time, as well as a copy of your student visa and a member of the International Department will meet you at Auckland International Airport.



Haere Mai



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International Students



Senior Student History Trip to Wellington

Our school community welcomes new students from around the world and as we are a small Area School we like to limit the number of International Students we enrol at any one time. Some of our students stay for a term and others may extend their stay for two years and graduate at Year 13.

Orientation usually takes place before school starts; this is when you discuss your academic timetable with your Dean who will do his best to place you in the subjects you wish to study, however this will depend on your academic ability and level of English.

As well as offering ESOL we can recommend a tutor in French and Spanish.

Your International Dean is always available should you wish to discuss a curriculum or any school issue.

Whangamata Area School offers qualifications in the National Certificate of Education Achievement, Levels 1, 2 and 3.



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All International Students at Whangamata Area School live with either a homestay family or a designated caregiver or parent. The International Student Department carefully selects families for students and will always try to match the homestay with student requests where possible. We have families who have hosted students for many years.



Most of our homestays are within easy walking distance of the school, town and beaches.

Our Homestay Manager is always available to students to assist with any queries or problems should they occur.





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End of Year activites

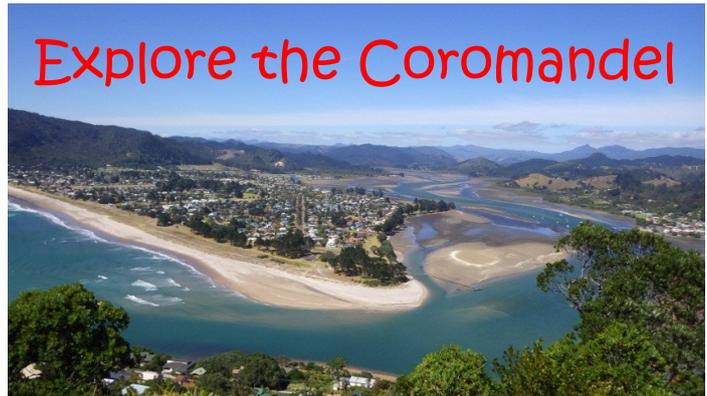
Students not involved with end of year national examinations will enjoy the 'end of year' activities with our International Dean. Some activities are in and around Whangamata and the Coromandel, followed with a visit to the Rotorua area for cultural and adventure activities.





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Explore_{and learn}





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At School and with your



New Family



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Policies and guidelines (extract)

Orientation and Support

On arrival students participate in an orientation programme. Students will meet the International Department Staff and the Dean will help with subject selection and finalise timetables ready for the start of school.

Students will be helped with opening a bank account and purchasing school uniform.

Many of our staff provide support and help, if needed, for our International Students. The Guidance Counsellor and Careers Advisor will help students with personal and career issues, choices and applications.

At orientation you will be given our 'Welcome to New Zealand and your Host Family' booklet which will help you to settle in to your new life in New Zealand.

School Uniform

All students at Whangamata Area School wear school uniform. Staff will help you purchase uniform. All students must wear black shoes and these may be purchased on your arrival or you may want to bring them with you from your home country.

Travel

International students are not allowed to travel independently while they are studying at Whangamata Area School, however we do want our students to see as much of New Zealand as they can. Many students take advantage of the tour companies who offer chaperoned tours of the both the North and South Island during term breaks. The International Department can help with organising this.

The full document can be found on our website: www.whangamata.school.nz

Welcome to New Zealand and your new Host Family





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Whangamata Area School, Port Road,
Whangamata 3620,
New Zealand
T: +64 7 8658 557
E: international@whangamata.school.nz
www.whangamata.school.nz

