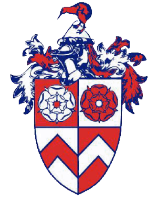


# Rosehill College

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Drowning Prevention Auckland  
85 Westhaven Drive  
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5 December 2019

## **Re: Kaimoana Mihana**

I thought it appropriate to write a letter of acknowledgement for the wonderful program that Drowning Prevention Auckland (DPA) has delivered to our students over the past few months. The concept of Kaimoana Mihana or the gathering of kai in a safe and responsible way was the main aim of the program.

In the previous year we had been involved with a program offered by DPA for the wider Year 10 cohort and from this we could see the value of developing and implementing this further for our Maori tamariki in the junior school also. Clayton Wikaira was out point of contact and facilitator.

Statistics say a lot about the way things are in our country and from these statistics it is obvious that Maori gravitate particularly toward the recreational pastimes of hunting and fishing/kai gathering. Unfortunately in the later, they are also over represented in the drowning statistics and that is where our desire for this program came from and DPA had exactly the programme we were looking for and they were also able to tailor this to fit our own requirements.

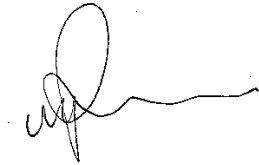
In a school situation we are always looking to provide safe and effective programs, DPA were easily able to provide us with the assurance, relevant documents, and support personnel to make this very easy for us at all stages of the program. The delivery of the theory and on land learning was carried out by Clayton on the whole and at all times the students felt supported and confident in his leadership.

Learning in a school, and life in general, is always far more effective when it is real and has connection to the learner. Clayton was able to work with our students in the classroom a number of times and through this he taught the students about the safe methods of diving for kai, the most effective techniques, and also what to do should you find yourself in trouble. Alongside this the kaupapa and tikanga that sit with kai gathering was also incorporated and this anchored the learning for the students.

Following these sessions we moved to the pool and DPA were able to provide our students with all the equipment required to practice the skills learnt in the classroom. Masks, snorkels, and fins were all supplied so the students were familiar with these when it came to the open water session. Water confidence was the priority of the first session and this was then followed up by a second session where the skills were extended further to ensure success when looking for the kina in the open water.

The open water session at Army Bay was a highlight and the facilitation of this by DPA was superb. It was great to see funding assistance had allowed for the purchase of new equipment this year. The students sure enjoyed the extra comfort and warmth in the water and the ability to use equipment that made the experience all the better such as new masks and fins gave the students an amazing first dive in many instances. We were also impressed by the support provided also in the form of two extra support staff in an inflatable boat to support Clayton and the three teachers present. The students (and teachers) had an absolute blast and loved every minute of the experience, it is nice to see young Maori engaging with Tangaroa and doing it in a safe and respectful manner.

I cannot say enough about the support and professionalism that Drowning Prevention Auckland provided and I look forward to building on this relationship further in the future.



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