



## Tōtara Camp 2026

31 October 2025

Kia ora e te whānau,

Thank you for replying to the camp intentions form that was sent last term. The overwhelming response was that we should proceed with camp next year.

The following notice covers what has been planned, where we are going and an indication of costs. **We will be hosting a Camp Information Evening in the Learning Studio / Hub from 6pm on Tuesday the 11th of November.** This will allow us to go into all of the following in more detail and offer you the opportunity to ask any other questions you might have at this stage.

Please note that you will also find two links at the bottom of this notice. The first takes you through to a student medical and personal information form that will need to be filled out for all students attending camp. The second is an expression of interest form for parents who would like to join us as assistants at camp.

### Camp Mākahika

Tōtara Camp will be held at the [Makahika Outdoor Pursuit Centre](#) from Tuesday the 3rd of March to Friday the 6th of March, 2026. Makahika is set in the foothills of the Tararua Ranges and is a reasonably short (90 minute) drive north from school. Planned camp activities will include a bush craft and safety programme, a river and water safety programme, tramping, high and low ropes, orienteering, team building and an overnight bush-camp experience. All these activities are run by highly experienced and industry qualified instructors. The camp itself is audited annually by AdventureMark. Students will be split into three groups and they will experience different sleeping arrangements each night; cabins in the lodge, an overnight bush experience and tents on the main campground.

### Indication of costs

Funds raised this year from last year's Carboot and Garage Sale, this year's Stall Day and Pizza & PJ Day will all be put towards camp. This totals to approximately \$4,500. We have been successful with one of our grant applications so far (\$3,000 from Hutt Mana Charitable Trust) and will be notified as to whether we are successful with our last grant application (\$10,000 from the Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust) by mid-late November.

We can't assume that this last grant application will be successful. So at present the cost to parents will be \$450 per student.

We appreciate that this is a significant cost to bear. Some families have chosen in the past to spread the financial load by making instalments towards camp ahead of time. If this is

something you would like to consider, part payments can be made via Hero referencing with your child's name and 'totara camp'.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly to discuss, in confidence, any concerns you have about meeting the costs of camp.

#### What's next?

As mentioned, we have a camp information evening coming up in a couple of weeks time. Please feel free to come along and ask any questions you might have about camp.

I am collecting and collating current medical and personal information about your child, that is pertinent to the camp. Please click on and fill out the following form - [Student Information](#). Try to get the information filled out and submitted back to me before the end of November. If you would like to be considered for the role of a parent helper at camp, please click on the following link - [Parent Helpers](#). I will advise all applicants as to whether they have been successful at the beginning of December.

There will be an update on costs of camp once we receive news about our final grant application next month. At that stage I will also send out a kit list of items that need to be gathered for camp.

If you have any questions at this stage about camp and are unable to attend the parent meeting, please feel free to email me directly at [mhughes@adventure.school.nz](mailto:mhughes@adventure.school.nz)

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hughes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Hughes  
**Tōtara Syndicate**