



Tōtara Syndicate Camp

March 2026

22 August 2025

Kia ora Tōtara Families,

We're excited to let you know about our upcoming syndicate camp in the first week of March next year. This is our first notice, with some early details about where we're going, what the programme looks like, and an initial indication of costs.

At the bottom of this notice you'll find a link to an Intention Form. Please complete this by Friday 29 August so we know whether families are able and willing to support the costs of camp. This information is really important as it helps us decide if we can go ahead.

Where we're going

Our camp will be held at Mākahika Outdoor Pursuit Centre from Tuesday 3 March – Friday 6 March 2026. Mākahika is set in the foothills of the Tararua Ranges, about 90 minutes north of school. Students will take part in a range of outdoor activities, including:

- Bush craft and safety
- River and water safety
- Tramping
- High and low ropes
- Orienteering
- Team building challenges
- An overnight bush-camp experience

All activities are run by qualified and experienced instructors, and the camp is audited each year for safety. Students will rotate through different sleeping arrangements: cabins, tents, and an overnight bush camp. You can find out more about Makahiki, by clicking [here](#).

Fundraising and Costs

Funds raised this year from Stall Day and Pizza & PJ Day will be put towards camp. We also have proceeds from our Car Boot and Garage Sale in 2024. Money from grants will be harder to find this year though, as we are no longer eligible to apply to a couple of organisations that we have had success with in the past. We will be applying to three charitable trusts over the next three weeks and hope to report whether we have been successful or not early in Term 4.

At this stage we can only give you an indication of the cost. We expect the price to fall somewhere between \$390–\$490 per student, depending on the success of our grant applications.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me directly if you have concerns about meeting the cost - we want every child to be able to attend camp, and any discussions will be treated with full confidentiality.

Intention Form

Please take a few minutes to fill out the [Intention Form](#). Your responses will help us confirm whether camp is financially possible for 2026. We ask that this is completed by Friday 29 August.

What's next?

If we receive a positive response to the form, we'll confirm a date for a Camp Information Evening early in Term 4. This will give us a chance to share more details and answer any questions you may have. For families who can't make the meeting, we'll send home a notice with all the key information. This will include:

- An expression of interest form for parents who would like to join camp as Adult Supervisors
- A Google form for medical, dietary, and other important information about your child
- An update on whether we've been successful with any of our grant applications

We're really looking forward to camp - it's always a highlight of the Tōtara Syndicate calendar and such a valuable experience for our students. If you have any questions at this stage about camp, please feel free to email me directly at mhughes@adventure.school.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

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

Mark Hughes
Tōtara Syndicate