



We are proud of our Māori name, Kānuka Ruruhau, which was gifted to us in 2018 by Te Taumutu Rūnanga Mātauranga Komiti.

Kānuka Ruruhau is Kānuka the protector.

Kānuka are seen as important species for aiding in re-vegetating bare, eroded slopes and dry woodlands. They are hardy and fast growing. They are often found on the forest margins. They act as an excellent nursery for many slower growing natives because they create shade and shelter from the wind.

Kānuka is a hard, strong timber and was traditionally favoured for making agricultural implements like kō, weapons like taiaha and tewhatewha. Its leaves and bark have medicinal qualities. It can be grown for the production of honey and essential oils, alongside its whānaunga Mānuka.

We see the Kānuka as being symbolic of the students, where the older children act as the nursery for the younger children and provide the environment for the younger to thrive. This could also be said of the kaiako and older members of the kura, providing the safe, nurturing circumstances for all your students to thrive. The multipurpose use of the Kānuka also acts as a symbolic reference to the wide range of attributes students can bring to the school, but also by providing a nurturing environment they will leave with many more.

Kānuka plantings around your school grounds are used as a physical resource for explaining to our students the name of our school and the importance of this in our learning environment. When giving koha we also give a kānuka on behalf of our kura. The symbolic reference to our school will be forever standing in the whenua, acknowledging the connection with Kānuka Ruruhau.

In 2020 we were gifted our whakataukī:

Kia maru, kia poipoi, kia puāwai

By providing shelter and nourishment, the new growth will flourish

Kānuka are an important species for aiding in revitalizing and revegetating dry woodlands and bare, eroded slopes. They are hardy, fast growing, and are often found on the forest margins. They act as an excellent nursery for many slower growing natives because they create shade and shelter from the wind. Then, once these natives outgrow them, the kānuka die off.

Kānuka is a hard, strong timber and was traditionally favoured for making agricultural implements, like kō, and weapons like taiaha and tewhatewha. Kānuka's leaves and bark have long been used in traditional Māori rongoā because of their medicinal properties. Additionally, Kānuka – like its whanaunga Mānuka – can be grown to produce honey and essential oils.