

Our Remote Campus

# Kahunui



---

# Philosophy

It is our aim at St Cuthbert's that every girl will finish her school education as a confident, capable and resilient young woman, who has forged life-long friendships during her time at the College.

Spending four weeks at our remote campus, Kahunui, in Year 10 is a vital stepping stone in achieving this goal for all St Cuthbert's girls.

Kahunui has a very special quality — it makes our girls aware of just how resourceful they are, how they can achieve whatever they put their mind to,

how they can feel the fear and do it anyway. It expands friendship groups, creating strong and solid bonds.

Every Year 10 student will spend 28 days here and we can say without exception that our girls love this facet of their education.

---

## Sustainability Outlook

Kahunui — meaning 'big hawk' in Maori — is a 141 hectare property located in the Bay of Plenty, bordered by the beautiful podocarp forest of the Kahikatea Range and the cool, clear Waioatahe River.

As the girls' home for four weeks, all students are encouraged to leave the site in a better condition than they found it through various sustainability programmes including pest management, native bush planting and seasonal produce cultivation.

Girls focus on a specific area, owning a project and reporting on progress

made to date for the next group of girls to continue with. Students gain immense satisfaction from snaring a stoat with their carefully crafted traps, building gardens or feeding their house with fruit and vegetables that they have grown and harvested.





## Outdoor Programme

As well as caring for their immediate surroundings, girls grow in confidence by giving their all to outdoor activities.

Tramping, kayaking, fishing, blow-carting and survival camping all form part of the month's activities with degree of difficulty growing as the girls' abilities develop.

Our Kiwi Girl programme is aimed at teaching girls important skills for being a New Zealander such as fishing, small boat handling, fire lighting and bush craft skills.

In the last few days of their time at Kahunui, girls embark on a 'solo', where they spend time in the outdoors reflecting on the skills learnt, experiences had and relationships created during their time at Kahunui.

## Social Living

Team work is essential for successful living at Kahunui, whether in her house or in the outdoors, which means girls soon learn to rely on each other, complement each other's strengths and ultimately form deep friendships by the end of 28 days on site.

Groups of eight students live in and manage their own house, supported by house tutors. This means cleaning, laundry, menu planning, budgeting and cooking. Living together builds in girls an awareness of the need to be considerate and respectful of everyone, as well as pull their weight when it comes to completing tasks.

While at Kahunui students have no access to internet or mobile phones, ensuring that their minds are fully present for their four week experience and encouraging plenty of social interaction between the girls. Students are encouraged to write lots of letters home and the girls always look forward to hearing news from home via the rural mail delivery.

## Academic Lessons

Academic lessons continue while students are at Kahunui with qualified and registered teachers who take English, Social Sciences, Mathematics and Science. Students also keep up to date with school work in Languages, Music and Business Studies.

On students' return to Auckland staff at our Epsom campus are always ready to offer learning support, ensuring that girls' achievement levels remain consistent throughout the year.



# Kahunui Certifications

Kahunui is a certified outdoor education provider and we follow safety standards to the highest level.

We have experienced and qualified outdoor instructors, a high standard of equipment and rigorous policies and procedures in place. All activities selected for students consider skill level, weather conditions and the season.

Kahunui Director Pete Evans is an experienced teacher and leader with a passion for the outdoors and experiential education. He directs a team of specialist staff to deliver just the right

balance of academic and experiential education to girls.



## Kahunui for Parents

A detailed induction seminar is held for all parents and students before Kahunui, covering topics such as the academic and outdoor programme structures, gear lists, medical and dietary requirements and transport arrangements.

All parents are invited to their daughter's Kahunui graduation on the final day of her four week stay to share in her experiences and achievements.



## Why Year 10?

A number of parents ask us why we have selected Year 10 as the time for St Cuthbert's girls to experience Kahunui. At Year 10 girls are settled into the rhythm of life in the Senior School, they have made friends and are familiar with the way the College operates with regard to timetables and homework expectations. At this stage girls don't have external examinations to prepare for at the end of the year, so a four week break from their usual routines is less impactful.

Year 10 is also a good time for girls to start taking on extra responsibilities and we have wonderful feedback from parents about their daughter's increased willingness to help out at home after returning from Kahunui. Many girls comment on their new found appreciation for all the things their parents do around the house, after being responsible for these things themselves for four weeks.

We also think that 14 is a good age for students to be broadening friendship groups and building connections with other girls they may not know so well in their year. Close quarters living promotes the need to show tolerance, acceptance and kindness towards others and these characteristics are ones that the girls bring back to their life at the College.

## Student Feedback

“  
**Kahunui brought me closer to friends and classmates.**  
”

“  
**Kahunui has been a great experience for me, it has shown me how to stand on my own two feet and make smart decisions.**  
”

“  
**Completing the Survival Night Challenge gave me a feeling of success and achievement.**  
”