

## Bream Bay College Whare

### Te Rerenga Kotuku



Bream Bay College has a Whare (old Whare) located beside the gymnasium. It was purchased from the Kohanga Reo Association in 1999 after it ceased to be a Kohanga Reo operating by virtue of lease on the College grounds.

The building was of low quality and effectively was located at the rear of the school. Discussion took place throughout the early 2000s around relocating the building to the front of the school. A second option was chosen where a prefab that needed to be moved for the new performing arts block was relocated and attached to the old Whare. This is shown on the left of the Whare.



Discussions continued around relocating the old Whare. These led to discussions around building a new Whare as the old building was not fit for purpose and did not warrant the cost of moving it.

In April of 2014 the Board resolved to sell two school houses under the current MoE School house sale scheme where the Board would receive half of the proceeds which could then be spent on a board funded project. The application for the sale was submitted and the sale finally went through in 2017.

Architects h + k drew up a concept drawing in 2014. Previous to this we had been in discussion with CHH about a large 27x15 shed for storage of waka ama canoes and general caretaking machinery. The two projects morphed to become one. The community was insistent that ablutions and a kitchen dining area was also included. The building was designed to be compliant with modern education classroom specifications while maintaining the traditional Whare appearance. The main area has a sprung ply floor (dance floor) to allow for kapa haka practice. The kitchen area was to be used for preparing traditional meals such as hangi. The dining area would double as a break out space for teaching and learning purposes.



Prices were sought to get a contractor to complete the whole project but in the end the College became the builder to keep costs in check. Roland Mosely Builder was our chief builder. The concrete slab went down in November 2017 and then there was a hold up while the portal kitset design was clarified between the architect and CHH Wood Products and finally construction on the rest of the building started on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2018. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of August the building was blessed and put into use that day.



The distinctive low and high windows on each side of the building allow indirect light to fill the building and also for easy cross ventilation in summer months. The furniture is selected from a range of innovative learning environment furniture to allow for the area to be used in different ways. Eg. High tables, low tables, whiteboard tables, ordinary seating, high seating, kneeling pads and bean bags along with 3 smart TVs and a teacher station. The Whare has modern wifi.



The users of the Whare are our two junior bilingual classes, the single period te Reo classes for year 7 and 8 mixed ability classes and the year 9 to 13 te Reo classes. Specialist teachers of bilingual science have started using the Whare for team teaching activities with other junior classes. The start of the day and end of the day in the Whare are culturally appropriate. The Whare is also used for evening functions as needed. We expect to have all visiting groups come through our Whare with appropriate tikanga taking place.

Having the Whare at the front of the school gives it the appropriate significance and functionality in terms of visitors.

Bream Bay College was fortunate to have significant sponsors. These are:

CHH Wood Products who supplied the portal kitset, shadowclad and the ply at a special rate along with a \$5000 donation to the College. Carters Whangarei who supplied all other fixtures at cost + 5%. Northpine who donated \$10,000 worth of timber and sold all other timber for the build at cost. Firth who supplied the rib raft for the floor at half price and all concrete at a rate near to cost. Placemakers for a \$2000 discount on the roofing material. Milliken Pty Ltd donated \$13,000 worth of carpet tiles which we used to carpet the gymnasium for the Tai Tokerau festival in 2016 and then we have re used for the Whare in 2018. Hansen Drainage donated \$1,000 to the College.