

The Kindy Chronicle

Introducing Pat's Corner



Kia ora whānau,

I'm Patrick Edwards, Chief Executive of Southland Kindergarten Association. Welcome to my new corner in the Kindy Chronicle! We created this to share what's happening across our 24 kindergartens, update on strategies and present our future direction. (I almost called it Postman Pat, but figured parents may be too young!)

We want to increase our community and whānau engagement by providing up-to-date ECE news via newsletters, digital and social media platforms.

With over 800 tamariki and 250 staff, SKA is a big whānau. We've been here for 105 years, but to thrive for the next 100 years, we must adapt to what families need today.

You might have noticed us introducing full-year operations to offer optional care during school holidays. We're also providing longer-day models and a 7.30am - 5.15pm option to support working families.

Beyond the gate, we offer free food at five kindergartens, host community events and are launching a mobile play trailer very soon!

I look forward to keeping you informed. We're proud of our history but just as focused on where we are going next.

Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai / Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

This whakatauki speaks directly to the core mahi of our association. It reflects SKA's dedication to providing great learning experiences and meeting the needs of the community so tamariki have exactly what they require to thrive.

Mā te wā,

Patrick

Fun Facts

Name: Patrick Edwards

Place of Birth: Wales

Favourite Place: Moeraki Boulders

Favourite Sports Team: Black Ferns

Pineapple on Pizza: NO!

Married to: Jane

Favourite Child: ALL three of them

Lived in Southland for: 13 years

Lived in New Zealand for: 26 years

Loves: Coaching Sport

Hobbies: Business Mentoring

Doesn't Like: Cricket

Coffee Preference: English Breakfast Tea



Te Toru Here o Pipiri

Rakaunui/Full Moon - 28 August 2026

Whiro/New Moon - 11 September 2026

The Great Journey of Tama-nui-te-rā

Brrr! If you have noticed those crisp Murihiku mornings slowly starting to change, you are actually watching a magical Te Ao Māori story unfold right above our heads. This month, we are exploring the epic journey of Tama-nui-te-rā (the sun) as he travels between his two great loves.

High above the world, Tama-nui-te-rā splits his time between two very different wives. His first wife is Hine-takurua, the Winter Maiden. She rules the icy, wild waters of Te Ara a Kiwa (Foveaux Strait) and the deep Southern Ocean. During winter, Tama-nui-te-rā travels far out to sea to stay with her. Because he is hanging out low on the ocean horizon, he casts long shadows, gives us shorter days and brings those freezing coastal winds.

But his second wife is Hine-raumati, the Summer Maiden. She lives inland among the lush, green ngahere (forests) of Southland. She is a woman of warmth, growth and vibrant life!

Right now, we are right in the middle of the action. As we move through August and September, Tama-nui-te-rā is on the move. He is gently saying farewell to Hine-takurua out on the freezing waves and beginning his massive, slow journey across the sky towards the inland forests.

As he travels closer to the land over the next few months, you will notice the days stretching out, the heavy frosts melting away and Papatūānuku (the earth) finally waking up. By the time summer hits, he will be reunited with Hine-raumati, shining directly overhead to give us long, hot and beautiful sunny days!



Kupu o te Marama

KŌANGA

(core-ah-nah)



= Spring

Star: Sun / Sol

Ingoa: Tama-nui-te-rā / Te Rā