Issue #13 - Oct/Nov 2026

The Kindy Chronicle

Glo-bro is back!

After a hiatus, the beloved Glo-Bro initiative has successfully relaunched across local kindergartens to teach essential road safety skills to tamariki. This collaborative programme brings together kindergartens, Active Southland and the New Zealand Police in a united effort to keep our youngest pedestrians safe. The relaunch event was a resounding success, largely thanks to the return of the massively popular mascot, Glo-Bro.

The tamariki of Longbush and Clarendon Kindergartens were fully engaged with the interactive sessions and enthusiastically embraced the lessons. They did a fantastic job learning, practising and implementing their new road safety skills, proving the initiative is just as impactful as ever. Glo-bro is coming to a Kindy near you!

Pat's Corner

Kia ora whānau

This week I thought I'd share a little about what's happening both within Southland Kindergartens and across the wider early childhood education sector.

Meet SQUID!

You may have heard the name **SQUID** mentioned around your kindergarten recently. No, we haven't introduced a new sea creature to our classrooms! **SQUID** is our new **reporting system**, developed right here at Southland Kindergartens. It helps our teams record and manage important information, including health and safety matters and incidents. While much of this happens behind the scenes, it's about making things easier for our kaiako and ensuring important information is followed up, allowing more time to focus on what matters most - your tamariki.

What's happening in ECE?

From 1 September, the **Education Review Office** (ERO) took over responsibility for licensing and regulating early childhood services, a role previously held by the Ministry of Education. In simple terms, **ERO** is now responsible for checking that early childhood services meet the required standards, including those relating to safety and well-being. For our whānau, nothing changes in your day-to-day kindergarten experience. Our focus remains on providing safe, welcoming environments where tamariki can learn, play and thrive. As always, thank you for being part of our kindergarten community. Enjoy the coming month, and hopefully we'll see a little more of that Southland sunshine!







Portrait of Glo-bro drawn by Wrelm

Te Rima o Kōpū

Rakaunui/Full Moon - 26 October 2026

Whiro/New Moon - 9 November 2026

The Guardians of Elston Lea Kindy

Since Matariki earlier this year, the tamariki at Elston Lea Kindergarten have been embarking on a beautiful cultural and creative adventure. Kaiako Amanda Barbel and Hannah Dowling shared that the children have been on a special 'Atua journey', bringing the stories of Te Ao Māori to life right here in our kindy.

So far, our young artists have collaborated to create three incredible Atua: Ranginui, Papatūānuku and Tāwhirimātea. The creative process is wonderfully child-led. It all begins at mat time where the tamariki come together to vote on which Atua they would like to make next. Once the votes are tallied, they spend time talking about the chosen Atua before brainstorming exactly how their collaborative masterpiece will be decorated.

Their most recent addition is the stunning Papatūānuku (Earth Mother). To honour her, the tamariki carefully gathered and curated natural materials. They used stones, leaves, pinecones, harakeke, sticks, greens and browns to construct a beautiful piece of art that truly represents her connection to the earth.

You can spot all three completed Atua proudly on display in the kindergarten next time you visit - they are absolutely worth a look!

But the journey isn't over yet. Kindy students TK and Patrick are already looking ahead and have shared that they would love to see Tāne Mahuta come to life next.

Will it be Tāne Mahuta or another mighty Atua? Voting for the next project officially kicks off this week. Every tamariki will get one vote to cast, and the Atua with the most votes will be the next to be made.

We will find out soon!



Ranginui



Tāwhirimātea



Papatūānuku

Kupu o te Marama

Atua

(ah-to-ah)

= Deity/God

"Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua."
(Look back and reflect so you can move forward)

kindergartens SOUTH
Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Murihiku