TE HORANUI RTLB CLUSTER 36 PRINCIPALS' NEWSLETTER

Hui te mārama hei purapura ora
Working together to nurture and support the growth and wellbeing of mokopuna

Cluster Manager Update

1 Dr. Ross Greene

Staffing Update

Discussions about RTLB Practice

2027 Cluster Initiatives

2 Dr. Ross Greene

3 Neuroinclusive Practices in Rural Schools

Incredible Years 2027

2026 Cluster Initiatives

4 Empowering the Village

5 Literacy Drop-Ins

5 Min G.E.M.S

Te Horanui Cluster Library

6 New Borrowing Agreement

New Literacy Resources

7 Showcasing Popular Resources

Transition Supports

8 Primary to secondary

Year 1 to Year 2

Term 3 2026 Data

9 Request for Support

Learning Support Funding

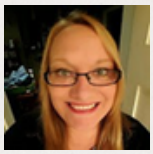
"AROHA KI NGĀ TAMARIKI"

CLUSTER MANAGER UPDATE

Kia ora koutou and thank you so much for taking the time to read Te Horanui RTLB Cluster 36's Term 3 Pānui. Thank you for all you do to support our ākonga to be the best they can be and I hope you are able to have a restful term break when the time comes. If you have any questions or queries about anything in this newsletter, please get in touch. I am always happy to hear from our cluster schools at any time and enjoy visiting our cluster kura. My contact details, as always, are below.

Ngā mihi nui,
Nancy

manager@rtlb36.school.nz
022 342 7852



Dr. Ross Greene - January 26th 2027

As many of you will have seen in recent emails from me, Te Horanui RTLB Cluster 36 is delighted to be hosting "Kids do well if they Can" with Dr. Ross Greene on Tuesday 26th January 2027 at the Lincoln Events Centre. We have been able to keep the cost per person for our cluster schools to $125. Enrolments from other RTLB cluster schools and our own budget have been able to subsidise this cost. We have received over 200 registrations already! You can find more information about this event here.

Staffing update

We are currently recruiting for two fixed term positions in our cluster for 2027. Vee Mitchell will be taking parental leave for 2027, returning mid-way through 2028 and Andrea Walker has been granted a 16 week study award. Earlier this term, I met with Nicola Grigg MP for Selwyn to ask her to advocate for increased RTLB staffing for our cluster due to the rapid growth and expansion of our cluster's student population. A letter was sent to Erika Stanford, but as of yet, I don't believe we have received a response or a decision about 2027 staffing and resourcing for our cluster.

Discussions about RTLB practice

If, as a school, you have queries or comments concerning individual RTLB and their mahi, I would encourage you firstly to talk directly to that RTLB, as they are best placed to address these. If, after this interaction, you or your staff feel that it would be beneficial to discuss this issue further, please contact me, rather than the liaison RTLB for your school. I can then direct you to the right person to support you with this query.



2027 CLUSTER INITIATIVES

Identified across 2026 are cluster initiatives that we will be supporting and developing in 2027. These have come from discussions with schools and request for support (R4S) data analysis.

Dr. Ross Greene - Kids do Well if they Can

Due to the size of the venue, we are using Humanitix to manage registrations so entry on the day can be quick and easy. This requires each person to have their own ticket, either printed or electronically. As we are going to be invoicing schools for the total amount of registrations received rather than collecting a payment for each individual registration, the site says the event is free, however in the week beginning Monday 2nd November, your school will be invoiced for all registrations received. Registrations close on Friday 30th October or until sold out.

It is possible for one person from the school to register all people they want to attend, but they will need to know dietary requirements, email address, role and cell phone number (in the event of an emergency on the day) for each person they are registering. You can either send the registration link to each person you wish to attend, or collect this information internally and have one person register everyone using the Humanitix link below. Morning tea and lunch are included in the cost. Any questions, please reach out.

Registration link - there are answers to FAQs within this link.

You can find the flyer for this event here.



Neuro-inclusive Practices in Rural Schools

We have 11 small and rural schools involved in our Neuro-inclusive Rural Schools project for 2027, which includes two full day PLD with guest speakers and workshops and continued follow up from allocated RTLB to walk alongside the school's journey for the year and tailor what this support looks like. If you are a small rural school in our cluster and you missed the opportunity to be involved in this project, please email me to arrange a chat. I'm happy to come out and visit you, or meet online or over the phone.



Incredible Years 2027

As a cluster, we need to make some decisions about what Incredible Years programmes we will be offering in 2027. In 2026, we were only offered the opportunity to deliver 1 programme and so we had to decide between Incredible Years for Teachers (IYT) and Incredible Years Autism for Teachers (IYAT). The eligibility criteria for IYAT is very strict. Kaiako have to have completed IYT training and teach Year 0-1 mokopuna. In their class, their must be a student who is autistic or has autistic traits. Please complete the Google Form below to support us in our decision making for 2027. Last year, we had a long waitlist for our one IYT programme.
Incredible Years Demand Scoping 2027 Google Form

2026 CLUSTER INITIATIVES

These initiatives were developed from our cluster needs and R4S data analysis from 2025.

Empowering the Village Event with Andrea Greer

It was wonderful to hear such positive feedback about the content of our Empowering the Village Event with Andrea Greer that we held in August. As well as many positive comments on the way out of the venue, our evaluation survey reflected the following opinions.

- The content of this session was relevant to my professional role - strongly agree 100%
- The session provided practical, actionable takeaways that I could use right away - strongly agree 100%

When asked “What were the biggest strengths of this session for you?” the summary of these responses outlined the following combined highlights:

- Presenter and Engagement: Appreciated the engaging presentation style, effective storytelling, relatable real-life experiences, and clear explanations of analogies and visuals that aided memory.
- Practical Strategies: Valued the actionable techniques, practical ideas, and step-by-step guidance for supporting students and staff using a trauma-informed lens.
- Positive Approach and Insights: Gained a positive outlook, helpful reframing perspectives, and an understanding of the impact of showing care, providing safe spaces, and maintaining predictable routines.
- Colleague Discussions: Enjoyed the opportunities for discussions with colleagues during the session



Te Horanui Cluster School Literacy Drop-In Sessions

We have now hosted our first 4 Literacy Drop-In Session with our RTLB Emma Clark leading the content based on cluster school responses on our Google Form. Emma has extensive experience working alongside both primary and secondary schools and brings a depth of knowledge of current, effective, evidence-based literacy approaches. She is fully trained in all NZ Ministry-approved structured literacy approaches and looks forward to providing an opportunity for you to ask questions and explore ideas to strengthen literacy practice within your kura. All of the presentation slides and session recordings will be on our cluster website at the beginning of Term 4.
We are hosting two final literacy drop in sessions in Term 4.
Session 5 - Wednesday 28th October 3.15-4.30pm
Session 6 - Wednesday 18th November 3.15-4.30pm.
If you have any specific questions you would like Emma to cover in these final sessions for 2026, please add your submission to the linked Google Form.

5 min Gems

Our 5 Minute G.E.M.S initiative is going really well with over 145 subscribers for our fortnightly focus inbox drops! This resource support is a live website for kaiako, which has been designed to share simple strategies to nurture connection, confidence and wellbeing for every learner. We know kaiako and kaiāwhina are really busy and time poor. Our aim is for our cluster school kaimahi to be able to access the fortnightly focus content in about 5 minutes and have something to be able to implement and/ or share easily. Each fortnight, those on the mailing list will be emailed a link to the new content, as well as be able to see all previous 5 Minute G.E.M.S.
Click the poster to access the flyer
You can now access our 5 Minute G.E.M.S website here.



TE HORANUI CLUSTER LIBRARY

New Borrowing Agreement

In 2026 alone, the cluster has invested $8000 into our cluster library to provide resources to loan to our 59 schools. When we did a stocktake of our library, we found there were a lot of resources that have never been returned to our cluster. We have implemented a new lending agreement that we are asking kaiako to sign if they are wanting to borrow cluster resources. I have outlined this agreement below:

"As a borrower of resources from the Te Horanui RTLB Cluster 36 library I accept that I take responsibility for all items I am issued. This includes being liable for the replacement cost of any lost items, and the replacement costs of any damaged items where the damage was avoidable and the resource is no longer fit for purpose.

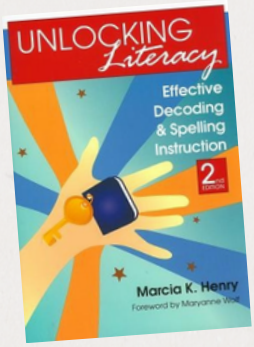
I will return all items in the same/similar condition as to how they were lent to me.

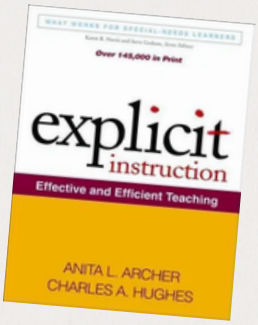
Most items are issued for 28 days (unless specified otherwise), I am able to renew items a maximum of 3 times as long as it is not reserved or a restricted item. Restricted items are only available for 14 days and I cannot renew them.

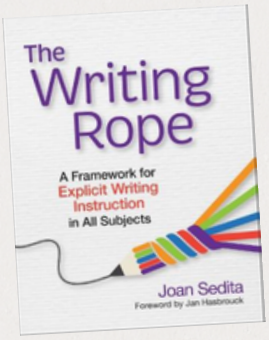
I will return all items issued to me within 14 days after the due date. I will return all items by the end of term 4, regardless of due date.

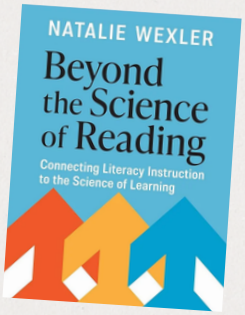
I agree to the above conditions outlined and accept the financial responsibility in regards to lost/damaged items."

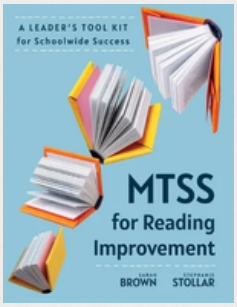
New Literacy Resources











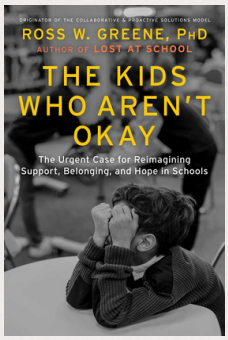
Showcasing Popular Resources

Adolescent/ Adult Sensing me Cards



In collaboration with Occupational Therapist Neeka Aicken, Andrea Greer developed and created the Sensing Me cards. Sensing Me cards is an interactive tool to help us understand our unique sensory needs. The adolescent/adult cards set has 59 cards in the set which allows you more space to get curious around what shows up in your brain and body when you engage in different activities.

The Kids who Aren't Okay



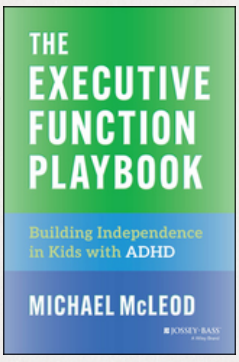
Get ready to hear Dr. Ross Greene in person by reading his latest book - The Kids who Aren't Okay.



Your Trauma has a Whakapapa by Jase Williams

'What if the pain you carry didn't start with you? What if healing doesn't begin with fixing others, but by coming home to yourself? In Your Trauma Has a Whakapapa, TEDx speaker, storyteller, former school principal, and relational neuroscience and trauma educator Jase Williams weaves together raw personal narrative, powerful purakau, and relational neuroscience to explore the deep roots of trauma and the transformative hope of healing.

Executive Function Playbook



The executive Function Playbook is a practical and contemporary toolkit based on the latest reliable evidence for the parents and professionals helping youth with ADHD navigate the challenges it presents. Its accompanying resource The Executive Function Playbook in Action is a hands-on guide for parents and educators working with students to improve their executive function skills.

TRANSITION SUPPORTS

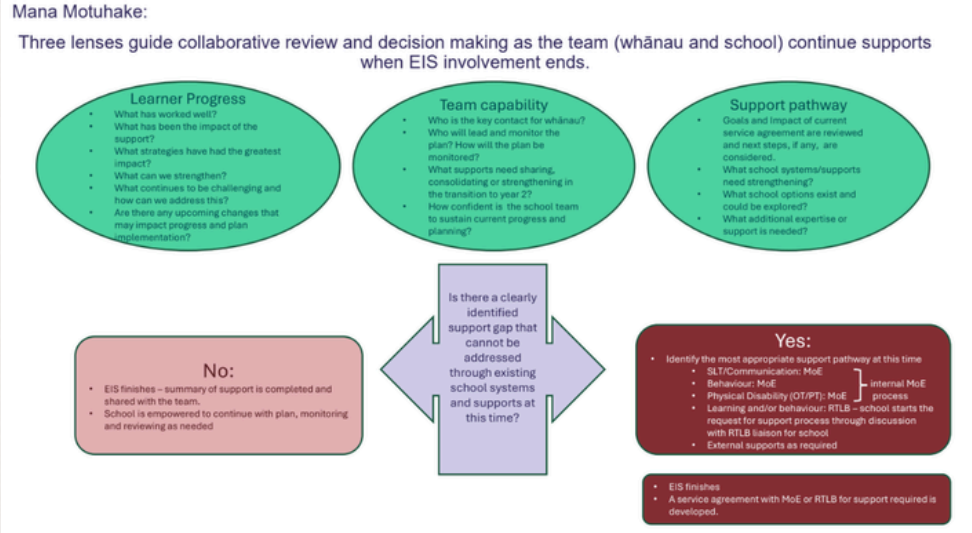
Te Tūāpapa a He Pikorua is a useful framework for considering the different transition support needs for a cohort. This could be mokopuna moving from Year 1 into Year 2 or transitioning to high school. Your Liaison RTLB can support you to consider the different layers of support needs required for the cohort and consider what additional targeted actions might need to be in place for some mokopuna and what tailored supports might be needed for a few.

Primary to secondary support

We will not be opening transition requests for support in the primary setting. Instead, we encourage primary schools to share information (with consent) with the high school instead. Our secondary liaisons will support the high schools to triage the cohort support needs and open eligible R4S. This way, our support can seamlessly go beyond the first four weeks of Term 1.

Year 1 to Year 2 support

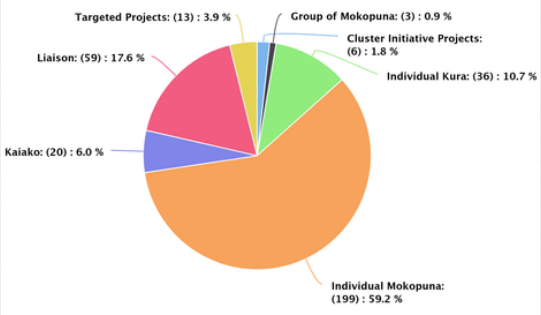
For the first time we will be thinking about Year 1-2 transitions, as for the majority of situations, RTLB have not been involved during 2026 . Our local MOE and RTLB clusters have collaborated to design a clear process to guide the decision making for schools when considering their Year 1 into 2 support needs, especially those who have been open with Early Intervention, whose support will be ending at the end of the year.



There are three lenses to consider, Learner Progress,Team Capability and Support Pathway. This helps ensure we are considering the most appropriate pathway for each mokopuna and that everyone is clear about the support required. For mokopuna who have received EI support in 2026, they will not automatically transition to RTLB support. You should discuss mokopuna requests where there is a clearly identified support gap that the school and whānau collaborative team believe RTLB support could address with your Liaison RTLB.

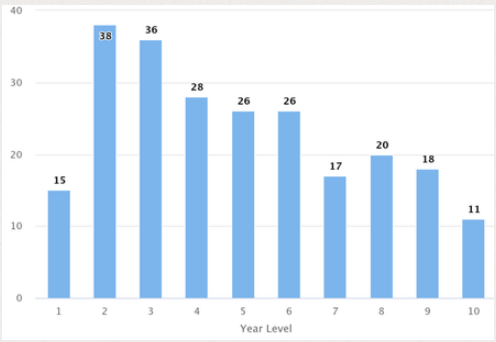
TERM 3 2026 DATA

Requests for support



So far in 2026, there have been 388 requests for support open at some point this year. This is a 15% reduction from the same time in 2025, although 66 of these requests are universal and targeted pieces of mahi that have a wide reaching impact for a large number of mokopuna. 55/59 (93%) of our cluster schools have requested support this year, in addition to regular liaison support. We have 6 R4S to allocate in Week 1 of Term 4, as well as 9 incomplete R4S that have been started but not completed by our cluster schools.

For our individual mokopuna R4S you will see we have a high prevalence in Year 2 and 3.
We are proud of our continued allocation rate so far this year which is sitting at 1.5 weeks from submission to allocation, compared to the RTLB national average of 2.8 weeks. Thank you to everyone that has supported this to happen by playing your parts to get information



Learning support funding

So far across in 2026, we have approved 134 learning support funding applications and $73,891.50 has been distributed out to our cluster schools. 73% has been used to increase adult presence in learning spaces,11.1% for teacher release to attend meetings or implement supports, 6.2% for mentoring supports, 5.8% on Teacher Aide PLD opportunities, 2% on cluster school kaiako PLD and 1.6% for targeted learning and engagement programmes. In addition, $3188.97 has been spent on casework resources, $7814.05 on new resources for our cluster library, $5750.82 on our cluster initiatives to support our schools such as our beginning kaiako and mentor PLD and our collaborative inquiry on leading inclusive practices. Finally, $13664.21 has been spent on supporting professional learning opportunities for our cluster school kaimahi. This additional spend equals $30,418/05, which when added to the LSF that has gone directly to our schools, this equals $104,309.55 which is 69% of our annual LSF budget.

