



# Tikipunga High School

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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As Assistant Principal of Tikipunga High School I am pleased to write this support letter for the NZ Sailing Trust. Tikipunga High School has been sailing with NZ Sailing Trust for at least 5 years. We are a decile 2 school and experiences like this are not something most of our whanau get to do. Most of our students had more to eat than they would at home and for some it was a treat to do something special, just for them.

I have been fortunate enough to be on each of the trips. We have taken senior students twice and sailed to Great Barrier on Steinlager 2. We have had light winds, which is quite nice initially while students get the feel of the boat. Then have that change overnight to howling winds and seeing only large vessels on the water. This required much more concentration to do things in a timely manner and do them correctly. Teamwork was essential. The times ashore were great. The team building activities were enjoyed by all and they loved a bit of competition. We have also dropped anchor off Little Barrier and heard the birds ashore from the boat.

We have had Year 9/10 students out as well. One trip on Steinlager 2 and the other on Lion NZ after the refurbishment. We sailed to Kawau Island. One of these was our most challenging trip yet. We had rain and very cold strong winds. The skipper suggested Kawau as he thought we would have a large number of seasick students if we tried to go further. We were in full wet weather gear the whole time. I had some small bruises on my arm where a student was gripping me very tightly. That night when we were at anchor and level again, a student told me how proud she was of herself to overcome her fear.

Our last trip was on Lion NZ. We had 10 students from our unit with special learning needs. I believe this was the first time the crew had taken students like this away. They absolutely loved it and the crew were awesome as usual. They learned the student names very quickly and made the students feel very important.

Many things have been learned on these trips; the history of the boats and crew, visiting new places, having a go at all the tasks which were new to them, the importance of teamwork, the importance of packing everything that was on the gear list, looking after the boat and each other. The list is endless and we have lots of wonderful photos.

The crew have always been outstanding. They have great people skills and gently encourage students to try everything, not to mention their obvious sailing skills. We had another two trips planned for the first week of May this year but sadly Covid 19 meant that these could not happen.

Sadly, NZ Sailing Trust has not had any income during this time. We fully intend rescheduling as soon as possible and give full support to the programmes they run.

Regards

*B. K. Anderson*

Brenda Anderson  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL