School closed for the year with a peak roll of 601 students, which is 26 more students than in 2009. Over the year we enrolled 100 five year olds to start their formal schooling. It will be 2016 when many of these children progress on to Intermediate school, and it will be 2023 when they leave high school at the end of their Year 13 class.

Where, I wonder, will each of us be in 2023?

I presented to staff three themes for 2010. The first related to National Standards in Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Mathematics. I set the task for our teachers to quickly come up to speed with the government’s requirement that all primary schools assess children’s achievement against a set of National Standards. A year later I can confidently say that our teachers have worked hard to understand the National Standards and have reported to you, the parents, on the achievement of each child. I can also confidently say that as a teaching team we remain opposed to the National Standards as they are currently formatted, and we see a need for some substantial changes.

The second theme related to the further developing our Partnership with Parents. Today’s Schools place significant emphasis on schools and parents working together to achieve the best results for every child. This includes welcoming and encouraging parent involvement in school, communicating and consulting with the community, and establishing a clearly understood principle that there will be a positive working relationship between teachers and parents.

The third theme related to pedagogy, with specific reference to Teaching as Inquiry. In this regard we aim for our teachers to be open to new ideas and methods, to view learning as more fundamental than teaching, and to develop a Tirimoana model for teaching and learning. As a teaching team we will continue further work in this area in 2011.

A significant new development this year has been the fundraising for and construction of an outdoor sports canopy. The cost of this project is $110,000. This week we will see the construction finally completed. I am confident that this facility will be a major asset to the school for outdoor games and activities.

We also refurbished many of our toilet blocks, for both staff and students.

We celebrated a number of key highlights over the year. These included the Art Exhibition, the Fame-a-thon / History Week, the beach picnics, the sports zonal days, the Orchestra and Choir concert, Kapahaka performing at the West Auckland Multi-cultural festival, the Tiri Recitals, the Year 6 camp and Year 5 Outdoor Education week, Grandparents Day and celebrating Green-Gold Day. And there were so many other exciting things in our busy school calendar!
In Term Two we farewelled our retiring Deputy Principal, Mrs Jan Parkinson, after nearly 30 years of teaching at our school. Mrs Parkinson has given a lifetime commitment to teaching, and has taught at every level at Tirimoana School. We celebrated her very many achievements and qualities with a special assembly and a super cocktail evening with colleagues. Luckily for us Mrs P visits school regularly and does relief teaching here often.

In Term 3 we sent out our Annual Parent Survey and received over 200 responses. Once again our parent community rated our school really well. Some of the key responses included the following:

- 96% of our parents report that teachers have explained National Standards well
- 82% of parents agree with National Standards
- 98% of our parents think children should have regular homework
- 94% of our parents support school organising Three Way Conferences for student achievement reporting
- 65% of our parents support a compulsory uniform
- 86% of our parents are satisfied with the level of requests for money for trips and other school activities.

**Appreciation**

**Parents**

Thank you to all the parents and members of the local community that support our school. In particular I wish to thank the following:

- The parents who attend our PTA meetings and support PTA fundraising activities.
- Parent helpers in classrooms and in the library.
- Parent helpers with the Junior Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP).
- Parents who help on school trips and on sports days.
- Parents who helped at the Year 6 camp.

**Staff**

Thank you to all our staff – teachers, office staff, teacher-aides, librarian, cleaners, caretaker and groundsman. Collectively we are a great team. We have a talented, professional team of teachers and a super team of office staff with Jenny, Shirley and Jo. Our school grounds and property always look good – thanks to our caretaker Paul Taylor and his team, and to Shirley for keeping our gardens bright and colourful.

I sincerely acknowledge our Management / Leadership Team, including Jean Harold, Tui McMillan and Mandy Vanderwee.

Next year we will welcome to the school a number of new teaching staff including a new Deputy Principal, Mr Andrew Ducat, who will be returning home from the UK to join our teaching staff.
Board of Trustees
I acknowledge and thank our newly elected Board of Trustees for their governance and support of our school – Debbie Clark (our Chairperson), Evi Sinclair, Mark Franich, Niki Bailey, Mike Carter and Louise Graham.

Farewells
Mrs Julie Carlson will be retiring from teaching after nearly 40 years teaching, including 14 years service here at Tirimoana. Mrs Carlson began her teaching career at Ranui Primary, and has taught in several schools at many different levels. She has made a huge difference to thousands of young lives and set many on pathways to future success. We will miss her very, very much.

Mr Lee Raeburn is moving on to Albany School after 3 years at Tirimoana. We will miss him but wish him all the very best in his new position, and we know he will be such an asset to Albany School.

Mr Raymond Whyte will be leaving our school at the end of the year. He has been a reliable valued relief teacher, and this term he taught in our New Entrant class. We thank him and wish him well for the future.

Mrs JoAnne Fendall will be taking a year leave of absence after many years service to our school. We wish her all the best for her year.

I commend all our children for their effort and achievement over the year.

Finally I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe summer holiday.

Peter Kaiser
Principal