



WHAKATĀNE HIGH SCHOOL

Marine Studies



Ko te wai te oranga ō ngā mea katoa - Water is the life giver of all things. Here at Whakatāne high School we are blessed to be surrounded by Tangaroa, god of the ocean. It is such a magical place! Even if you are not a fan of being in the water - the ocean touches us every day! With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you are connected to it. The earth's oceans are one of the most y important components of the earth's ecosystems. Whakatāne is a coastal town facing the Pacific Ocean and as such the marine environment is very important to the people of this community. Whakatāne High School students can study the unique Science subject of Marine Studies. At year 12 and year 13 students receive four hours of lessons a week from a science teacher who has had special training in Marine Studies.



Year 12, NCEA Level 2 Marine and Land Biology Course covers the coastal ecology of the rocky shore, the biological adaptations of three chosen land and marine animals, living in the extreme environment of the Deep Ocean, a practical investigation on the most important factor life giving factor of the ocean - photosynthesis, and connecting this all together through life at cellular level in an external exam assessment.

Year 13, NCEA Level 3 Marine and Land Sustainability Course has a wide variety of standards students can choose from based on their needs and interests. These range from implementing a personal action to help our oceans and land, to investigating NZ and worldwide policies on shark finning and fishing practices, the implications of marine reserves, and a practical investigation into crab behaviour. In addition to this you can learn about customary Maori fishing practices, where you have to make and use Māori fishing hooks.



SCUBA DIVING

Each year there are two (April & September), four day, Scuba Diving trips run by Dive Zone Whitianga in the beautiful Coromandel, a 4 hour drive from Whakatāne. On these trips you can complete any of the PADI Scuba diving courses - open water, advanced, rescue, or free diving. The cost to do a course & the trip is \$825.00 NZD. This is made up of \$325 for food, accommodation, van transport costs, and \$500 for the Padi course. All gear is provided on the trip and you will need to have a [Padi scuba diving medical certificate](#), which is best to have done prior to arriving in NZ in case your doctor at home needs to sign it off.

HERON ISLAND, TRIP

This is the highpoint of the course and regarded as the pinnacle event. All international Marine Studies students and Y13 Marine and Land Sustainability students are invited to participate in the annual Heron Island trip, situated on Australia's Great Barrier reef. This trip gives you an insight into the complex ecosystem of coral reefs, and the impacts climate change is having on them. There are two 10 day trips a year, each trip having 16 students:

- Trip 1 Week 10, Term 2, 2023: Depart Sat 24th June - Home Sunday 2nd July.
- Trip 2 Week 5, Term 3, 2023: Depart Sat 12th August - Home Sun 20th August.

The group stays at the Queensland University Research Station on Heron Island, a two hour ferry ride from Gladstone, Queensland Australia. You do not have to be a scuba diver to come on the trip as most of the amazing wildlife is best seen by snorkelling. The trip cost \$4000.00 NZD, which includes return flights via Auckland to Brisbane and Gladstone, ferry transfers, accommodation, food, supervised boat snorkeling around the Heron reef and access to the Queensland University research facilities and equipment.