

## Inside today



**CRAFTY CREATIONS:** Artistic designs at Māhia Beach on Thursday saw turtles, whales, beach couches and sea critters all created for the annual sand castle competition at the Māhia Boating and Fishing Club beach day.

Cousins, from left, Reuben MacKenzie, Jackson Brownlie, Jessica Brownlie and Molly MacKenzie joined forces to create this unique turtle sandcastle.

MORE ON PAGES 14, 15

# School wants more ministry guidance

A WAIROA school principal is feeling frustrated for her staff, students and school community because of a lack of communication from the Ministry of Education.

Tiaho School is having asbestos removed from its building, which is set to be demolished this year.

School principal Lisa Grant says every classroom has something in it that is starting to go wrong.

“The orange cladding on the top of the buildings has asbestos and the classrooms are beginning to leak.

“There is black mould in areas too, and carpet has been kept since the 1970s.”

Planning for the rebuild began in 2021 and there is excitement amongst the school community with Tiaho School for the new school which is set to open next year.

However, among the excitement is frustration over a lack of communication, facilities, resourcing and guidance for the school’s temporary facilities in the meantime.

“We were given seven weeks to remove all of our resources, clean them, sort them and store them in our temporary classrooms and anywhere we can find room, before we open up our doors for the first day of learning at the end of the month,” says Ms Grant.

“We have had to look at everything in our classrooms to decide what to keep or throw away.”

The moving of resources from the current buildings to the temporary classrooms required a team of six across seven days.

“This couldn’t begin until the tamariki

were off site, and because our timeline was pretty tight, we made the decision to end term four a couple of days earlier than expected. Our Tiaho whānau were amazing.”

The resources continue to sit in classrooms as the school waits for work to be completed in the hall.

As she walks through the school yard with the heat of the sun beating down, she raises concerns about health risks in the school.

“Once the demolition begins, we will have no shelter for our kids when they want to play outside in the sun or rain.

“If they want to go from their classrooms to the library or their classrooms to the car park, for example, there is no shelter for them to walk under if it is raining.”

When approaching Ministry of Education managers of the design and construction phase of the school for support, Ms Grant says communication has been a challenge.

“We asked about water fountains or a place to store a hose and they have not given us anything.

“They are doing the best they can, but we need more support.”

The ministry has given the school the minimum requirement of toilets allowed in a school — eight.

“We have two in the hall changing rooms, a toilet for tamariki who have special needs . . . And of the six toilets by the classrooms, two are allocated for staff, two for seniors and two for juniors.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## ARE YOU RE-ROOFING?

We supply Colorsteel and Zincalume in Styleline and Corrugate profiles.

We also stock everything else you need to get your roofing job done.

Call us for a quote today!

Happy New Year to all our customers!

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 7:00am - 5:00pm  
Saturday - 9:00am - 12:00pm  
19 - 21 Mahia Ave, Wairoa T: 06 838 6948  
www.eastlandbfs.co.nz E:info@eastlandbfs.co.nz



## LAMONT

Marketing Advisory Services

Do you want to boost your sales to new and existing clients/customers?

Do you want to improve the financial results in your business?

For a review and recommendations to maximise the profitability in your enterprise, contact Jenny (MBA) at Lamont

MY EXPERTISE, YOUR PROSPERITY



P: 021 087 47238 E: jenny@lamontnz.co.nz W: lamontnz.co.nz

