



# Pongakawa School



ENTER TO LEARN - GO FORTH TO SERVE

*Kuhu mai ki te ako - haere ki te awahi*

Phone: 07 5333731  
Fax: 07 5333521  
Email: [office@pongakawa.school.nz](mailto:office@pongakawa.school.nz)

957 Old Coach Road  
R D 6  
TE PUKE 3186

PRINCIPAL: Craig Hagg  
Phone: s 9(2)(a)  
B.O.T. CHAIR: Karen Gillingham

26 05 2022

**Re: Kevin and Andrea Marsh development, Pongakawa**

To whom it may concern

This letter is to indicate the support of Pongakawa School for the proposed residential development at 1491 State Highway Two, Pongakawa by Kevin and Andrea Marsh.

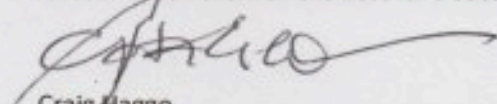
I have been the principal of Pongakawa School for more than twenty-two years and during this time have been able to observe the change in the area surrounding our wonderful school. On my arrival there were a few orchards and many dairy farms. This gave a fairly stable roll for the school of around 200 to 230 students. Those not connected with farming came from Pukehina beach, with a few from Paengaroa - particularly at the year 7 and 8 level. If we fast forward to the present time things have changed greatly. Now farming is in the main orcharding and the associated industries around this. In addition, with the opening of the eastern arterial route we have seen more people moving the beach or to a small subdivision near to the one being proposed. The roll is now around 320 – 340 students.

On a regular basis we have people dropping in to the school asking if we know of homes for sale or sections on which to build. This is because Pongakawa is now almost equidistant to Tauranga, Rotorua and Whakatane. Getting to these places is a short and manageable journey. It also represents the opportunity to live in a relaxed atmosphere, close to the beach and lakes but most importantly close to peoples place of work.

The school is in a sound position to cope with the added students who will no doubt enrol should the development be given the green light to proceed. We have classroom space for additional students and site capacity for more accommodation. The school has large playing fields and excellent infrastructure including an international sized basketball court in the regions only purpose-built Action Centre, a glass back squash court, heated 25 metre competition swimming pool, bike track and large wetland and bush area. Academically the school is very successful and has an excellent history of reporting from the Education Review Office.

This area will continue to grow with the development of additional large-scale projects now occurring including the Rangiuru Business Park.

As long-term residents in the area I believe the Marsh Development has been designed with care and sensitivity and a thorough understanding of the Pongakawa community honed over many years of community service by Kevin and Andrea. I know it will be a popular, vital, affordable and safe place for those who will choose to build on its soil. I wish them all the best for a successful outcome.



Craig Hagg  
Principal