



# THE WAY NZ CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE TE HUARAHI 2019

BETHLEHEM COLLEGE | 24 ELDER LANE, BETHLEHEM, TAURANGA  
THURSDAY 04 JULY – SATURDAY 06 JULY

## HE MIHI WHAKATAU KI NGĀ MANUHIRI O TE NZACS

Hamuera Tamihana

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever may believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

It is the breath of life.

This is me, a servant of our God, sending him all praises, for he is the creator of all things, and he has redeemed us all from sin. He is the beginning, the end and the reason why we gather here today. Here we are lord, announcing that our praises to you shall never cease. Thank you, Father.

I now acknowledge King Tuheitia who sits on the throne of his ancestors before him. I greet him, I greet his family, those in the royal family of the nation. May peace be with them and with all of us also.

My heart cries deeply for those who are now sitting beyond the veil, those who have been taken to the resting place where they will no longer wake. I express my affection to those who have past. Rest in peace. My thoughts turn to those who are gathering at the Wairoa marae at this time. The deceased and her relatives who wait there. I pray that God sends his healing peace to you all. Amen.

I am the river, and the river gives me life (A saying of Ngāti Kahu). My acknowledgments soar to Pukewhanake, then descend down to the Wairoa River, which flows from the Kaimais out to the ocean. They reach down to those of Ngāti Kahu who care for this land.

To the meek and the great, I affectionately greet those from the North to the South. The breath of life. Welcome to our school which stands here in Tauranga Moana.

Welcome here, enter on to our land of Bethlehem College.

Come with your many skills, your knowledge, your desires, and your baskets that they may be filled with knowledge from God and from our speakers also. Welcome.

We have gathered here today with a united idea, to celebrate our Lord through our work of teaching. He is our focus, our passion, and the one that sends us to teach all nations in his name. Another focus is to raise up the achievement of our Māori students, the Māori language and all of its customs. So open your knowledge baskets wide, and fill them with the gems from this conference. In time, the seeds you plant over these 3 days will blossom into beautiful flowers at your respective school communities. So welcome.

I then go on to greet some of our organisers and special guests.

Alistair Patterson as the leader of the Kāhui Ako.

Sean and Josh McDowell and their families as our guest speakers from America.

Those involved in the organisation of this event and the NZACS committee.

Welcome family.