

Autumn 2017

COMMUNITY MOURNS ERNIE'S PASSING

One of Ngatea District High School's students, Ernest (Ernie) Martinovich passed away in December 2016.

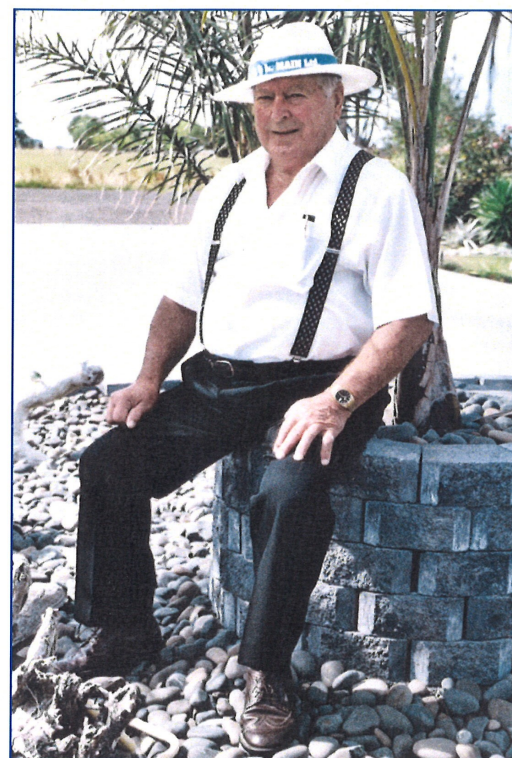
The service for Ernie Martinovich was held in the college hall and led by Ernie's son-in-law Ian Clark, who made mention of the fact that it was very appropriate since Ernie started his Primary School days at this school and his secondary years were also spent here. Ernie and Maureen's three daughters, Debra, Helen and Sharon all attended Hauraki Plains College and so, too, did all eight of his grandchildren. This certainly was an appropriate place to say goodbye to Ernie.

Taken from his eulogy:

"Ernie was born in 1930, delivered by his father in the wash-house on the farm. His mum must have loved him to bits as she kept him home from school until he was six years old. Ernie talked about school as being a fun place but only for all the things that weren't educational! He left school at the age of 15 and went up to Auckland for six months where he took on various jobs, but eventually returned to the Plains to take up a share milking position for his Dad.

In 1959 Ernie married Maureen (nee Peacock) whose family came to work on the farm two years earlier. The family of three daughters grew to eight grandchildren and the first of six great grandchildren was born in 2011. Ernie is going to be missed by many. He was not a huge man physically but he had a huge heart which he shared with so many."

With Love We Remember Ernie



Ernest Martinovich

3rd September 1930 - 10th December 2016
'Pocivaj u miru.'

RESTORATION PROJECT

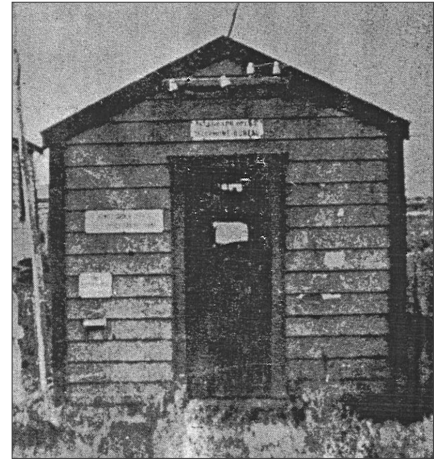
RESTORATION PROJECT NEAR COMPLETION

Ngatea's second Post Office, built in 1917, was rediscovered at a Turua address by past pupil, Lee Carter, who offered it to the college for restoration.

The 2016 Head Girl and Boy, Brylie Gordon and Gus Barrier, picked up the project as an initiative under their leadership role. They were supported by HPC Project Manager and past pupil, Ian Clark. Originally it was intended that the Building and Construction and other students from HPC would do much of the restoration work. But after moving the Post Office onto our grounds, local builder, Kevin Bathurst, who is also a past pupil (1959—1960) was called in to assist with the extensive work required.

"A major challenge was the biggest beehive ever seen, which had made a home in the old building. It's great to see a bit of history preserved," said Kevin (KJ).

The restored Post Office will sit alongside the Dog Box at the front of the college. The next addition to the 'historical village' will be the original Ngatea jail.



The original Ngatea Post Office 1912



Kevin Bathurst putting the finishing touches to the restored Post Office

FIRST XV REUNION PLANNED

From the Matamata Record 1944: *Surprise Win from the Land of Gumboots*: "It was a great day for Ngatea. Their pet High School team, drawn from only 50 boys, beat the older and more famous Matamata High School first fifteen, drawn from around 270 boys, in the final of the Coulter Cup. Ngatea District High School 9—Matamata High School 8."

Stories like this are at the heart of the HPC First XV and no doubt there will be many more told at the First XV rugby reunion to be held on Easter Saturday (15 April) this year.

The first registration in came from Lester Fox, former college student who played for the NZ Maori All Blacks 1978—1980.

Guest speaker is Mr Norman Pratt, who as coach and Principal, led the HPC First XV to 12 consecutive victories in the Coulter Cup.

"It would be great to see locals come along as we are hearing that some are travelling from Australia to attend," said Chairperson Ian Clark.

Registration forms are available from rugby@haurakiplains.school.nz



HAURAKIAN HERITAGE

The Head students of Hauraki Plains College for 2017 are Keegan Harris and Courtney Berridge.

Both of these students have very strong links to the past, spanning a period of more than seventy years. This makes very interesting reading and can be traced back to the early days of Ngatea District High School.

Courtney's great grandfather was Ronald Graham Clark. He was a pupil from 1945 – 1946. Later on Ronald was also a member of the Board of Governors, as it was called at that time. Her great grandmother was Mavis Clark (nee Johnson) who also attended school from 1945 – 1947.

From 1967 - 1971 Courtney's grandfather, Robin Clark, and his four brothers were students at Hauraki Plains College. Her grandmother, Rohan Clark (nee Bergerson) attended from 1969 - 1971. Rohan's two brothers were also pupils at around this time.

Courtney's mother, Cindy Berridge (nee Clark) was present from 1987 – 1990 and Courtney's mother's two brothers also attended HPC. Her dad is Kyle Berridge (1985 – 1989). He was Head Boy in 1989 and her uncle on the Bergerson side of the family also went to HPC.

This is Courtney's final year at Hauraki Plains College and she is following in her family's footsteps, with her brother and sister also currently pupils. She is intending to go to University in 2018, to study Business and Commerce.

Keegan's paternal grandfather is Greg Harris who was a past pupil from 1967 - 1970. His grandmother is Ngaire Harris (nee Mapson) who was a student from 1968 – 1972. It is very special and probably a rare occurrence where a grandmother is the principal with a grandson at school. Keegan's dad, Daniel attended HPC in 1991 – 1992 and his mum Rosemary Harris (nee Peni) was a student from 1992 – 1996. All of Keegan's uncles and aunties on both his mother and father's side attended Hauraki Plains College as well his great aunties and uncles.



Keegan has very recently been selected for the Touch Blacks, the NZ Open Mixed Touch Team.

Keegan is intending to study Sports and Te Reo at AUT next Year. For now he is focusing on the Touch series against Australia to be played on the Gold Coast in May. Best of luck, Keegan.

So on both sides of the Head Boy and Head Girl's families, there are very strong links to Haurakians and the past.



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

2016 HAURAKIAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Two Year 13 students received a Haurakian Scholarship at last year's annual Senior Academic Prizegiving.

Callum Thoms (grandson of Myrtle Johnson) has begun his tertiary studies at Waikato University this year, where he is undertaking a Bachelor of Electronic Commerce degree. Callum gained his NCEA Levels 1 and 2, endorsed with Merit and his NCEA Level 3. While attending HPC he was a hardworking and conscientious student who was polite and pleasant and always ready to lend a helping hand – he definitely lived by our motto, “Quisque Pro Omnibus”.



The second recipient was Candace Bath, who has moved to Auckland's North Shore to pursue a Health degree, particularly focussing on health promotion. Candace achieved her NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 all endorsed with Excellence and was one of HPC's high achieving academic students. Candace studied Level 3 Health, English, Chemistry, Biology and History, gaining mostly Excellence grades in all of these subjects. Candace also had an important role to play in the Student Leadership Team where she was in charge of the inter-hapu (house) events, such as the Tug-o-War. She almost single-handedly ran these occasions, with the whole school involved and enjoying the competitions at various times during the year.

2016—A YEAR OF OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

Last year saw our students achieve excellent results in NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3, in achieving Merit and Excellence endorsements and in the Vocational Pathways. Pass rates for NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 were 99%, 99% and 98% respectively.

At Level 3 (previously Bursary): 17 students gained a Merit Endorsement and 13 students gained an Excellence Endorsement.

At Level 2: 25 students gained a Merit Endorsement and 34 students gained an Excellence Endorsement.

At Level 1 (previously School Certificate): 40 students gained a Merit Endorsement and 24 students gained an Excellence Endorsement.

In addition to this, HPC students were offered collectively over \$250,000 in scholarships for tertiary study.

