

**More  
Than  
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

# Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



## Community Newsletter

We are intending to put out monthly community newsletters. If you would like your own electronic or hard copy of newsletters, please contact Amanda at the college (078677029) or email:



amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz

## Team Tonga

Over the recent break, a group of 28 students and staff headed to a warm welcome from Vaini Government School in the Kingdom of Tonga where they spent several days supporting and providing activities such as sports, science, drama and first aid for the young students there. This is the second time that HPC has been involved in the initiative organised by Head of Humanities, Mrs Miriam Courtney.

Said Year 13 student Caitlin Doddrell about the experience:

“ When we first arrived at the school I was immediately shocked and already very emotional. Before leaving for this trip I was told that they had very little but it wasn't until I got to the school that I realised what very little actually looked like from our perspective. The school consisted of two buildings with about three-four classes in each block. Some classes had no furniture such as desks and tables. There were holes in some walls and doors, even in the floors. The kids were all so giving, loving and precious. They brought so much joy and happiness to us all and I hope we made an impact on their lives as well. These kids really made me realise that there is much more to life than technology, being rich and having everything right there when you need it. I have taken away that being happy and having friendships is far more important than having everything you want. ”

The group also took with them resources such as sports equipment, stationery and chrome books for teachers. HPC currently have two staff whose families originated from the village of Vaini: Mr Siosaia Pomana and Mr Timote Mapuhola.

A big thank you to everyone who supported Team Tonga.





Welcome everybody to HPC's first community newsletter. With the BOT elections recently completed, I would like to thank the outgoing trustees, Melanie Shea, Dana Thompson, Roger Hunter, Jeff Gordon and Jonathan O'Neil (staff rep) and welcome the new trustees Anita Llewellyn, Penny Buchanan, Simon Main,

Stephen Morrison and Doug Cresswell (staff rep) with Molly Smith-Soppett as student rep. We have also co-opted Roger Hunter back on to the Property committee to help assist with the finishing of the new classroom building as well as the removal of the Wharenui Block.

With numerous delays for the start date, we were pleased early in *March* to see the driving of the first test piles for the new six classroom build. Thorburn Builders have been outstanding with their management and the building process. They are confident that the planned hand-over of the building to the school in September will still be achievable. While there has been some inconvenience around the school during this process, it doesn't seem to have affected how our students are learning and the results they are achieving.

Semester One is now well behind us and HPC students are generally doing well with their learning, with good progress seen across the year groups. We understand that there are different levels of learning and sometimes the measured achievement we see in statistics is less powerful than the measure of the engagement we see in the individuals. For improvement to be catered for at all levels to everyone at HPC, we have to plan and prepare.

A Strategic Direction process helps focus the groundwork required to be able to do this and keep on task. We will be holding a full community consultation meeting this term regarding HPC's Strategic Direction and request input from all of the community. The date for this is set for Tuesday 17 September 7pm in the college hall. More information will come out in our weekly e-bulletins closer to the date.

We are currently updating our email delivery addresses for our weekly e-bulletins and would be happy to include yours so you can get a snapshot on what is happening at HPC. Feel free to email the school to be included in our weekly circulation.

Andrew Gordon  
BOT Chairperson

## More Than A School

*More than a School* is a recent change to our mission statement and intends to convey what we believe we are about at HPC.

*More than a School* is about recognising that there is so much more to education than school work and gaining qualifications. The origins of the word education are from the Latin *educere* and mean to draw out of; to educate. Therefore it means essentially to draw both the best self and best work out of an individual.

While gaining qualifications and figuring out one's future career pathway is a significant aspect of school life, we believe that other things also matter. A wide range of sporting, cultural, leadership and service opportunities is important as is a focus on developing character, citizenship and community contribution. *More than a School* also means having initiatives that address both physical and emotional wellbeing and equipping students to be learning ready, life ready, work ready and world ready in a culture of high expectations, no blame and no excuses.

It was Albert Einstein who once wrote on a blackboard: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." That aptly sums up *More than a School*.

Ngaire Harris  
Principal

*there is so much more to education than school  
work and gaining qualifications*



## Friendships Renewed

Mid July saw the reuniting of 18 of the 3 French class from 1969. The get together was sparked by the 50 year anniversary of man landing on the moon, past pupils being able to vividly recall their teacher stopping the French lesson to listen to the historical event on the radio.

After lunch at Mark and Diane Townshend's, both of whom were in 3 French, the group were treated to a tiki tour of the college by Brian Woolcock, long time teacher at HPC, who now teaches in the old 'French' room.



**Vee Port**

*E runga e te a rangi marie.  
Rest in peace.*

## College Icon Passes

The recent passing of former Assistant Principal (Head Mistress), Mrs Vee Port was recognised at a recent student assembly in acknowledgement of her thirty one years of teaching and leadership service to Hauraki Plains College.

Raised and educated in Timaru, Vee went on to gain her Masters in English at Canterbury University with Latin and French as her other main subjects. Her first teaching post was at Christchurch Technical College, before starting at HPC in 1965, having recently married the college's First Assistant, Mr Fred Port. At that time it was a 15 strong teaching staff led by Principal, Mr J W Allen.

In 1968 Mrs Port was prevailed upon to take the position of Senior Assistant Mistress, a role she continued in until her retirement in 1995. In this role her consistency and fairness ensured the respect of the staff and pupils alike. Outside the classroom she worked tirelessly for the Maori Culture Group, as well as giving time to basketball (now netball), softball, coaching the school debating teams, fund raising efforts and the equestrian team which was a particular interest.

Said former colleague and good friend Miss Lorraine Hayward at Mrs Port's funeral on behalf of many who knew Vee: "Our sincere sadness at Vee's passing. Her friendship, scholarship and her way of making students believe they could succeed was truly inspirational. A local legend in her own right."

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### HPC Girls Shooting Team



#### South Island Champions

(left to right) Katrina Bond: 2nd Single Rise; Ayisha Hull: 1st Single Rise; and Lauryn Bond: HOA Female, 3rd Single Barrel and 1st Points Score

### HPC Music Group



#### Performing in St George's Anglican Church, Thames

(left to right) Levi Dyer, Nathan Starkey, Daniel Mounsey, Zac Hemmings, Grace Allison-Witt and Liam Tully

### Careers Expo

Senior students had the opportunity to talk with more than thirty different providers at a recent Careers Expo held at the college including Universities, Polytechnics and other training providers including Health, Tourism, Beauty, Police, Fire Service, Defence force, Building and Primary Industries.



### HPC Careers Expo



### Gabby Hughes Lifesaver

#### Life Saving Exchange

After a year of training, Year 12 student Gabby Hughes participated in a two week exchange with Huntington Beach

Following its official opening in March, the 22 acre Hayward Farm is continuing to make progress. The current focus is on the completion of orchard planting, establishing bee hives, introducing free range hens and a small number of sheep. The Year 12 Building and Construction class is also erecting a storage shed on the property.

A big thank you to local Selwyn Davies who called in for a chat one day and noticed an old Massey Ferguson tractor had 'died'. The tractor had been used for transporting soil and compost to the orchard, teaching students how to drive and mowing the orchard. Mr Davies took it upon himself to investigate and after several days had the tractor up and running in good working order. Thanks for being a good neighbour, Selwyn.

## Hayward Farm News



### Students at Hayward Farm

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