


Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



Community Newsletter

Our Community Newsletter combines news from Hauraki Plains College, The Haurakians (past pupils and teachers) and the Haurakian Charitable Trust. If you would like to sponsor our newsletter email:

 amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz

New Classroom Block Opens at HPC

The first day of Term 3 saw the formal opening of a new six classroom block at the college and completes several years of planning. The new block is designed as a flexible learning space which can be used for more traditional style classroom teaching and also opened up for open forums and learning experiences.



The college, which has a tradition of naming all of its classroom blocks after contributing Primary schools, will be named the *Kaiaua block*, and replaces six prefab classrooms which will now be removed from the site. The cost of the Kaiaua block, at around \$1.3 million, represented several years of planning and is the College's first new classroom to be built in 15 years.



Students and staff gathered in the quad area for a haka powhiri on the first day of Term four to formally open the new learning space as a welcome addition to the school and to acknowledge the work of the Board of Trustees in seeing the project through. After a brief speech by BOT Chair Andrew Gordon who thanked those who had worked hard over several years to make the new build happen, Matua Normie Anderson, gave a blessing over the new building.

The Kaiaua block will primarily be for Humanities classes, with traditional subjects such as History, Geography and Social Studies being taught along with Classical Studies, Legal Studies, Psychology, Tourism and Employment Skills. "It's a fantastic learning space for the new term," commented Curriculum Leader of Humanities Miriam Courtney. "I love the collaborative approach that a flexible environment allows for teachers."

The College is holding an open day on Tuesday 26 November from 10am to midday as an opportunity for the community to have a brief tour of the facilities at HPC including the new classrooms and the Hayward Farm.

More Than A School 
Hauraki Plains College

WHAT'S ON:

Sports Prize Giving:
Thursday 24 October

Second Out of Zone Ballot
closes 12 midday on 25 October

Arts Festival & CD Release Concert:
Tuesday 29 October

Last day for non-exam senior students: Wednesday 30 October

Senior Prize Giving:
Friday 1 November at 7pm

Year 8 Orientation:
Wednesday 20 November 6-8pm

HPC Community Open Day
Tuesday 26 November 10am—midday

Year 9 Certificate Prize Giving:
Thursday 28 November 10:30am

Year 10 Diploma Prize Giving:
Friday 29 November 10:30am

Junior Camps:
Monday 2 December to Friday 6 December

Year 13 Leadership Camp:
Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 December



From the Board Chair

In the September holidays of 2018 the College saw the three prefab classrooms by the student car park removed so that ground preparations could be made for the start of the new six classroom *Kaiaua Block*. Unfortunate delays meant that the first foundation piles weren't pushed until March, but with all that behind us now the BOT is excited to hand over the new building to the Humanities department on the first day of Term 4.

The classrooms are designed around Ministry of Education guidelines of what a modern learning environment should look like, with interconnectable learning spaces, well lit, well ventilated, good acoustics and warm in the winter, (just to touch on a few basics of their brief). We have achieved all this, plus added a big covered deck space, which will help assist with more shelter and shade during intervals.

To have the project totally signed off we now have to give away the three transportable buildings that are presently the Wharenui block. This was part of the agreement with the Ministry of Education to secure the new build. The Board is currently looking for interested parties so that these can be removed during the Christmas break and the area beneath them reclaimed and made fit for purpose.

All these projects have and are being managed under the very watchful eye of Roger Hunter, who thankfully agreed to be co-opted back on to the BOT for the planning and completion of the school's property and building projects. We really appreciate his input.

During September two community consultation meetings were held regarding the school's future direction along with a whanau consultation meeting. Thanks to those who took the time to come along and give feedback as we continue with our strategic planning process.

Good luck to all our students involved in exams this term, as well as those who are still working towards Junior and NCEA qualifications.

Andrew Gordon
BOT CHAIR



Zoned In

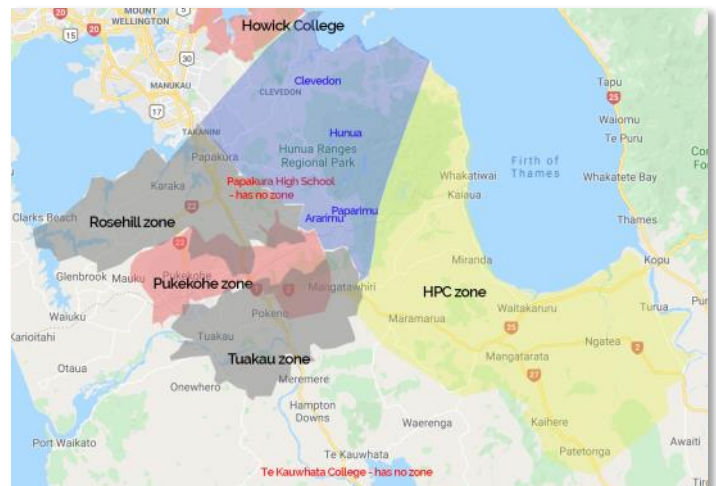
The HPC zone as mapped was implemented 15 years ago when the College was experiencing an influx of students from areas that traditionally fed other secondary schools. In order to manage the situation, a school zone was put in place as the Ministry does not provide funding for additional classroom space unless the school is in a growth area such as Auckland or Tauranga. Students who live beyond the zone must apply through ballot for enrolment. This allows the roll to be capped at a certain level.

Earlier this year, the Board reviewed the capped roll and determined that 750 was an ideal number to provide an extensive range of opportunities and programmes while still maintaining a 'one student at a time' approach. In smaller schools many subjects such as Physics, Calculus, Classical Studies, Legal Studies, Languages, BCT, Dance and Agribusiness need to be studied through correspondence, through lack of staffing. The range and number of sporting and cultural opportunities is also possible at this number of students. The most significant determinant of school roll is space available; we are fortunate to have a range of learning spaces such as the Centennial Centre, Building Shed, Sports Barn, Lodge, the Hayward Farm, the Hangar and a large field which all provide additional learning spaces.

Currently 285 students from a roll of 755 are out of zone. Enrolment for an in-zone student is accepted as of right, where as those living beyond the zone must go through a ballot system. The school receives the same operational funding and staffing per student regardless of where the student comes from. Regardless of school size, what matters most is what is happening in the classroom and around the school such as quality teaching, positive relationships and engaging contexts for learning.

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Ngaire Harris
PRINCIPAL



Cultural & Arts Prizegiving

The recent Cultural and Arts Prizegiving recognised those students who have competed and contributed to the Cultural and Performing Arts in more than twenty different forms.

Congratulations to students who won awards at the recent Cultural Arts prize giving:

Junior Cultural Blues

Anna Tukuitoga (Singing)
Samantha Whittington Slater (Hip Hop)
Rowan Wathen (Drama)
William Carpenter (Drummer)

Cultural Blues

Grace Allison-Witt (Service Blue)
Bradley Bath (Service Blue)
Sheree Walsh (Service Blue)
Dar'ya Starykova (Service Blue)
Daniel Mounsey (Guitarist)
Alisha Wathen (Ballet)
Daniella van Vliet (Trumpet)

Rhodes Green Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts at HPC.

Liam Tully (Showquest, 48 Hour film, Guitar ensemble, Cultural Arts leader)



Top: Student artwork, Left: Liam Tully, Right: Daniella van Vliet



Dancing Like Nobody's Watching

As in other years, Year 13 students have participated in four sessions of dance tuition covering a variety of styles from Modern Ballroom to American Smooth. Dances currently being taught are American Smooth Rumba, Cha Cha Cha and the Barn Dance. Students are taught the step patterns, rhythms and etiquette of each dance and then work together to help each other achieve the complicated patterns.

The dancing lessons are part of the graduation requirements for senior students, along with other life skills such as putting a CV together, fixing a tyre, learning about budgeting and maintaining personal wellbeing.

"The current group of Year 13s are particularly good at working together and helping out those that find it a bit challenging at times. All lessons end with much excitement, applause and huge high fives for all... which is so exciting to be apart of," said Dance instructor Marcus Ashwell from Dancewell Studios (Hamilton).

HPC Students in Jiading

Every year, a small number of Year 13 HPC students are selected to participate in a cultural exchange with Jiading, China as part of a Hauraki District Council sister city initiative. Brittney Ratcliffe and Micah Fielden reflect on the experience:

“This trip was such an amazing experience, its something I will never forget. The highlight of the trip for me was spending time with my host sister again who had stayed with me several weeks ago. I found their school system really interesting. In all the schools, students were streamed and the class I observed had five minutes of massaging their eyes, ears and head at the beginning of each class. This enables them to concentrate more as they were relaxed and prepared for the next 40 minutes of the lesson. The class environment was different than I expected. I imagined it to be very strict with no talking by the students and no laughing whilst in class, but the teacher would crack jokes and the odd student in the back would have conversations with the others close by. Each student attends school for ten hours a day and still has at least three hours of homework once they get home, not to mention a lot of them have extracurricular activities.

The language was challenging and although I remembered some mandarin from my childhood, I wish I knew more and had the confidence to say what I knew. Knowing the basics like hello, thank you, you're welcome and at least the numbers 1 - 10, would be really helpful for people going next year.

The experience has made me a more open-minded and well-rounded person. It has made me appreciate the countryside once again and how fortunate we are to be able to drink from the tap or take the fruit from a tree, have clean waterways and breathe fresh air.

Brittney Ratcliffe

“What I found interesting was the fact that Eric (my host brother) told me that most of the culture is mainly in the food. It made me think about appreciating the food more and also look out for other aspects of Chinese culture. I found

that just because they are from a different race, they're still human with actually many similarities.

The most challenging part of going to China was definitely the language barrier and the air outside. Thankfully some of us had a parent or two that could speak English, but getting your host sibling to translate most of the time for you was really difficult on them and also on us. The air outside was also questionable. It was almost toxic and felt as if small particles of dust flew right into our noses. It didn't help that every corner of the street you took, there'd at least be one person smoking.

The Jiading experience made me think about how amazing China really was, especially the architecture. While ancient architecture is stunning, modern apartments are really cosy and clean. The Chinese are human, just like everyone of us. If you get the chance to come on this trip, you are ready to join another part of humanity!

Micah Fielden



Ailis Caldwell and Brittney Ratcliffe at the school fountain at Sisu Experimental High School, Jiading, China.

Gateway to the Future

Each year over 80 HPC students have the opportunity to experience life in the workplace. This is only possible with the generous support of local businesses. Gateway or work placements cover a wide range of employment opportunities such as engineering, early childhood, hairdressing, hospitality, vet nursing and fitness training.

Katie-Maree Niethe recently completed a Gateway placement at The Glory Company Café in Ngatea.



"I learned many things there that gave me a good understanding of how a commercial kitchen works, said Katie. "The things I enjoyed the most were meeting new people and learning new kitchen skills. They were really patient with me while I was learning."

Andrea Logan, owner of The Glory Company Café, sponsors several Gateway students. Katie-Maree now has part time work at the Café.

Community Blue for George

Past HPC student, George Stilwell, was recently awarded a Community Blue from the University of Canterbury for his work in raising awareness and support for those who are impacted by Williams Syndrome.

After leaving HPC in 2013, George completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2017 and then started his PhD project focusing on understanding the upper body strength of people with tetraplegia to assist in the design of rehabilitative, assistive and mobility devices.

George has been responsible for over \$11,000 of funds raised for the NZ Williams Syndrome community. His efforts have hugely impacted the Williams Syndrome awareness which has benefited hundreds of families. Over the past year, George has contributed to the Williams Syndrome community on a national level through being a keen advocate for the rare condition. Williams Syndrome is a genetic condition which affects approximately 1 in 10000 people. In New Zealand, there are approximately 200 people living with Williams Syndrome. George's connection to the rare genetic condition stems from his younger brother Henry, who has Williams Syndrome. George and his family have been active members of the New Zealand Williams Syndrome Association (NZWSA) since becoming members of the association 13 years ago in 2005.



Community blues are awarded for individuals who demonstrated a significant contribution to their community. While George is concentrating on completing his doctorate studies, he is thinking about a design engineer as he is interested in innovative products that can be used by people of all abilities.

Students on the Move

Bree McCowatt

Year 11 student Bree McCowatt recently participated in the World Deaf Swimming Championships in Brazil. Over the six days of competition, Bree raced in eight events, making two finals in the 800m and 1500m freestyle.

“Overall it was a good experience for me,” said Bree, “to represent New Zealand and experience the different environment of a deaf swim meet, where there are so many people signing, using lights instead of a sound system for starting procedures and being in a different country where everyone speaks a different language.”

Bree is coached by Graeme Laing at the Matamata Swimming Club where she swam six times a week leading up to the competition as well as a couple of times a week at the Thames pools. An amazing experience for Bree after all the hard work.

Alysha Read

Over the holiday break, Year 10 student Alysha Read competed in the NZ Nationals for Rhythmic Gymnastics. With placings in four events - Rope, Hoop, Ball and Ribbon - Alysha came runner up in the Level 8 competition and second place overall.

Alysha trains ten hours each week at the Counties Manukau Gymnastics Club. “I love the feeling of achieving a skill for the first time and of showing my personality on the floor when I perform,” said Alysha. A well deserved result, Alysha.



Bree McCowatt



Alysha Read



Winners of the WSSFA Junior Boys B Knockout Cup 2019. Coach Mark Barker.



Girls Clay Target Shooting Team who won the team event at the recent national championships.



Students at the Novice Rowing Camp



Michael Ellis—First in U16 National Eagles Golf Tournament

The Lodge 96 years on



Four years ago, the Lodge was given to the College to use as a Performing Arts space. With the formal closing of the local Masonic Lodge chapter, the preference was that the building would go to a community project. With this in mind, the Haurakian Charitable Trust set about to purchase the building for

the purposes of a performing arts centre within the college. Up until then, students had been using a classroom for dance and drama.

The building itself is one of the oldest on the Plains, having been opened in 1923 with over 150 locals at the opening. Several former lodge members have had a close affinity with the school including for example Mr Dick Flint, Percy Foster, Fred Davis, Vic Murray and Gray Townshend.

Since the purchase of The Lodge by the Trust, the flooring, inside and exterior walls and heating have I been upgraded to ensure it is fit for purpose as a dance and drama space. Over 150 students have taken up the opportunity to study Dance or Drama, which are both examination subjects.



The Lodge

Haurakian Charitable Trust AGM

Wednesday 23 October. 5:30pm in the Centennial Centre.

All welcome.

Hayward Farm News



Two extra rows of fruit trees have been planted to complete the orchard which is now in full blossom. The hen arena is nearly complete and the hen house waiting to be assembled by Building and Construction students. The new shed, also built by students, is all but completed and the tractors are now stored in it. Bark mulch is being applied to the blueberries to conserve water evaporation and minimise weed growth. Thank you to Ravensdown Fertiliser Company for donating a 20kg of Nitrophoska fertiliser for the blueberries. Only organic weed spay is used in the area of the trees and blueberries.

From the Archives—Fundraising for a School Gym

At a July meeting of the Hauraki Plains College Association, it was decided to go ahead with a fundraising campaign for the building of a gymnasium for the school. A public meeting was called in August and the decision made to employ a professional fundraiser, Mr J.G Woolf. From there, at a “Queen Carnival” spearheaded the fundraising efforts with the district being divided up into six areas: Kaihere-Mangatarata; Kerepehi; Maramarua-Kopuka; Ngatea-Pipiroa; Turua-Kopuarahi and Waitakaruru-Kaiaua-Miranda.

The carnival was launched on Saturday 18 October with a grand parade. Reported the Thames Star at the time: “By far the largest and most colourful procession ever seen on the Hauraki Plains moved down the main street of Ngatea to mark the opening of the Queen carnival from which is it is hoped to raise \$10,000 for a gymnasium at the Hauraki Plains College. Several thousand people, many from outside the Hauraki Plains College district, lined the main street to see the procession and then move into the College grounds where a monster gala day afternoon was staged.”

In fact \$28,000 was raised over the four week campaign and with further funding from the Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Education, an equipment bay and changing rooms was added to the original gym design. The school took an active part in the campaign raising \$4000 from a work day and sponsored walk from the college grounds to Kerepehi via the State Highway and then back via Kaihere Road - a walk of some 18 kilometers. Koro Lochie Kaka, Kaumatua from the Kerepehi marae, made a tiahā to lead the walk which still hangs on the foyer wall.

Over the last 50 years, with Ministry of Education funding, HPC has continued to maintain the gym making upgrades to the gym roof, toilets and offices.



The gym is available for community use outside of school hours. Contact: martina@haurakiplains.school.nz to make a booking.



1968 3P



1968 3CM4



1968 3CM1



1968 3Fr

Class of 1968

If you were a 3rd former in 1968 (or joined this cohort) along the way, a reunion is to be held on
Sunday 24 November 2019
11am onwards in the Centennial Centre, \$35 for lunch, BYO, Partners welcome.

If you have contact addresses of other students, please let them know.
To register, email Mary Aislabie marya@haurakiplains.school.nz

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