




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

The Camping Tradition

The last week of the school year saw all of the Junior school out camping; Year 9s to the Ngaruwahia Christian Camp and Year 10s to Opoutere.

The Year 10 Opoutere Camp is a 25 year old tradition which owes its establishment to former teacher Bruce Ratcliffe who had been given the task in the early 90s of taking a Year 10 elective on a tramping experience. **“I ended up taking an extra group, it poured with rain the whole time, some students could not manage to carry their packs up the steep inclines and there was insufficient food. The Moss Creek hut stunk and there was a dead opossum in the roof. I was told in quite earthy language what the students thought about the experience. That was a defining moment for me so in 1993, we decided on a beach based camp at Opoutere that would be a fun Kiwi camping experience,”** recalls Mr Ratcliffe.

The camps have been based around tenting, sailing, kayaking and beach activities with Mr Ratcliffe himself purchasing some old sailing boats and repairing them for school use. Students take responsibility for their own meals, learn about water safety, the significance of the area and its history in a ‘give it a go’ environment.

From that initial start, Funding Co-ordinator Anne Leonard has managed to secure over \$140,000 worth of Outdoor Education equipment including new sailing boats, mountain bikes, waka, tents and kayaks to offer a wide range of water activities.

Mr Ratcliffe’s Opoutere bach has also a home base for the camp over the years and until this year has been in charge of sailing groups. Bruce reflects back on his involvement: **“I love Opoutere and what it affords in the way of safe water for sailing and kayaking and feel I shared my special place with students over the years. It has been a privilege to have dared to dream and see such positive outcomes.”**



Year 9 & 10 Camp



From the Board Chair

It has been recently announced that our school is eligible to receive a one-off \$400,000 capital contribution to spend upgrading our school property. The additional funding, provided through the

School Investment Package announced last weekend is intended to help us accelerate upgrade projects already planned as part of our 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP).

During the year, the Board of Trustees has been in discussion about and now planning to advertise for a Business Manager position. This is to help spread the workload of the senior management team and assist the board with the day to day business aspects of running the college.

Here we are at the end of another successful year. We would like to take this opportunity to farewell Stephanie Harford, one of our deputy principals and thank her for her contribution to the school over many years. We wish her all the best in her new position at Rototuna High School.

Thank you also to Mr Peter Keith, our Careers Advisor and former Deputy Principal who is now retiring from the teaching profession. Mr Keith has given more than 30 years of service to HPC.

All the best and our thanks to Mr Richard Lang and Ms Rebecca Hill who are also leaving; Mr Lange to a position at St Peters Auckland and Ms Hill to Whangamata Area School.

I'd like to acknowledge the work and commitment of our head girl, Sarah Kruger, head boy Duran Weaver-Smith and the hard work of the Year 13 Student Leadership team throughout the year

To all our support staff who make sure things get done behind the scenes and also to the front line teaching and classroom staff, thank you all for your work. We rely on you - you all have a direct impact on our students and to keep up our commitment to giving them the opportunity for quality education and extra curricular activities. I'd also like to thank the parents who assist with these activities as we as a school can not do this on our own.

A special mention must go out to Mrs Ngaire Harris for her leadership and devotion to Hauraki Plains College and endeavouring to make it more than a school.

I wish everyone here all the best over the festive season and take care.

Andrew Gordon
BOT CHAIR

Junior Academic Prizegiving

Congratulations to the following students who won major awards at our recent Years 9 and 10 Prizegivings:

Year 9:

Jared Sewell

Outstanding Academic Achievement: this award was presented to Jared Sewell. Jared took Year 12 Mathematics this year, winning the Con McCarthy Trophy for top student in NCEA Level 2.

Beyond the classroom, Jared loves tramping which he does most weekends and has completed nearly every hike in the Coromandel and several throughout New Zealand. He also enjoys golf, mountain biking, languages, electronics, wood turning, coding and playing the Piano.

I really enjoy electronics and coding and making projects with Arduino and Raspberry Pi. I have also gained prize awards in the Australian Mathematics Competition.



Other major award winners were:

The Award for All Round Excellence: Elizabeth Schouten
Rangatiratanga Award: Rawiri Aramoana
Manaakitanga Award: Skye Holt-Purvis
Kaitiakitanga award: **Mia O'Brien**.
Effort and Attitude to Academic Work: Mercedes Beazley and Thomas Jeyes
Good Citizenship: Zyon Ford and Cordelia Mostert

Year 10:

Ania Ballantine

Junior Dux went this year to Ania Ballantine. Besides her studies, Ania enjoys being active and is a talented sportsperson, playing for the 10A Netball, Senior Girls Basketball and Senior Mixed Touch teams. On her academic success, Ania says she tries to get assignments done sooner rather than

later so she doesn't fall behind. "Another key thing that has helped me succeed this year is knowing that I don't have to be the smartest person in the room. There are definitely people who can speak Spanish better than me or can throw a ball better than me, but I just know I can have an even spread over everything and as long as I work **my hardest, I'm fine with my grade,**" reflected Ania on her year.



Other major award winners were:

The Award for All Round Excellence: Alysha Read and William Carpenter
Rangatiratanga Award: Chase Black
Manaakitanga Award: Lara Forsyth
Kaitiakitanga award: Gabriel Rangitaawa
Effort and Attitude to Academic Work: Samantha Whittington Slater, Nathan Everitt and Hayden Adams
Good Citizenship: Isabella McAuley and Ayden Craggs

Erratum

Our apologies for the error in last month's community newsletter. The Mulak Scholarship is a \$6000 scholarship particularly aimed at those pursuing a career in the sciences and was won this year by Rachel Goodin.

New Sign for Haurakian Trust Farm

Formerly the Laing farm, the Haurakian Trust Farm at Waitakaruru is now sign posted on State Highway 25. The 116 hectare farm at Waitakaruru is currently milking 320 cows and is an established monitor farm for the P3 Trust (Profitable Progressive Plains).



Gateway

Well done to Connor Howard for completing his gateway placement at Noel Leemings, Thames where he now has a job for the holidays. Below is what Connor said about his placement:

"Gateway has enhanced my people skills and given me the confidence to seek jobs within the industry of my placement."

"Noel Leeming has given me real appreciation of the retail industry and the great people behind it."

"My work placement reinforced what I have been taught in class, providing me examples of business and accounting in action."





Farewell Class of 2019

Senior Graduation is the final red letter occasion on our school calendar and is about acknowledging a defining moment in the lives of our Year 13s: the end of school days as they have known it and the beginning of life beyond the familiarity of home and school gates.

The event itself is organised by the Social Leadership team led by Jasmine Wales and Bradley Bath, who spent many months in preparation. After their River Guides (Form teachers) have spoken a few words about most memorable moments, what they are proud of and future plans, school leavers are presented with a Haurakian pin as a reminder of their time at HPC.

In preparation for graduation, students are required to participate in a number of life skills activities including for example learning about budgeting, looking after their own wellbeing, changing a tyre, formal dancing, writing a CV and giving 20 hours of service in the community.

A huge thank you to Mr Nick Joynes (Yr 13 Dean), Mr Jaco Dreyer (Deputy Principal Year 13s), River Guides and teachers who have together witnessed the unfolding story of the class of 2019 - the trials and triumphs, the challenges and achievements, persevering and patiently drawing

out and expecting the best from our students.

Graduation night is a red letter event for parents and families as well. Without the support of home, it is very challenging for students to make it through their five years at college and one can imagine parents thinking where has the time gone. Thank you to our parent community for your support and contributions over the past five years, especially to those who will no longer have a child at HPC.

This year is 50 years since Neil Armstrong became the first man ever to walk on the moon, and because there is no wind on the moon, his footprints are still there. In there is an image of the class of 2019, leaving deep and lasting footprints on our school landscape simply because of who they are and the stunning young people they have become.

To all of our school leavers, we wish you well. We hope that life will hold many adventures for you and that you have a good life - whatever that means and how they want to define it. We hope that you will live a life you are proud of and that at any point you find you are not, that you have the courage to go in another direction. With all of that we hope that you remember where you have come from and your way home from time to time.

Ngairé Harris
PRINCIPAL





Photo credits - Levi Dyer

Win for HPC Cricketers

A year ago, the Hauraki Plains College Years 9 & 10 cricketers were regarded as 'easy beats' by opponents; however, by comprehensively defeating Morrinsville College last Saturday, this team claimed the winners' title for the pre Christmas part of the season in the Years 9 & 10 grade of the Waikato Valley/ Hamilton Secondary Schools competition.

Last Saturday this team of dedicated young players justifiably celebrated the winning of the pre Christmas championship title after outclassing Morrinsville College in the play off match. While two or three outstanding players have certainly headed the revival of the skills levels of our College's cricketers, the most pleasing aspect of the progress of this group has been the way the boys have blended into a proud team. Each match played over the past year has seen someone show improvement in one or sometimes more aspects of his game. We also see individuals enjoying a sense of belonging and being a valued team member. Coached by college teacher Pete Carpenter, good leadership and captaincy by Hunter Crowe has seen all members given a fair share of the on field action whenever possible.

Details of the match: Hauraki Plains College 226 for 7 wickets (30 overs) Nihindu Wickramathunga 53, Anthony Barker 41, William Carpenter 25, Hunter Crowe 23. Defeated Morrinsville College 120 (all out).



Coaches for 2020:

We still require a number of coaches for 2020, in particular Junior and Senior Girls Cricket. If you are interested in coaching a team, either in a summer or winter code, please contact Sports Director Ian Clark Email sportsdir@haurakiplains.school.nz or Mob 027 493 0348.



Hauraki Thames Coromandel Sports Awards

Secondary School Sportsman of the Year:

A well deserved award for Guy Johnston who won the Under 17 New Zealand Downhill Cycling series and runner up in the U17 NZ Mountain Bike Champs. Guy was one of eight riders around the world selected to attend a talent camp in Spain.



Secondary School Team of the Year:

Congratulations to the Girls Shooting team of Lauryn Bond, Katrina Bond and Ayisha Hull who who has won every regional shooting competition including the South Island Championships and the New Zealand Secondary School Champs. Dedication and a unique ability to perform under pressure underlines the ethos of this team.

Muudi Cup on the Piako

It was all on for this year's "Muudi Cup" on the Piako. Takapuna Grammar and St Peters of Cambridge competed against Hauraki rowers for Muudi Cup honours. This is the 11th year for the annual event with St Peters taking out the cup every year to date.

Lots of fun for new rowers and some challenges in negotiating the choppy waters and the bridge with the odd crew capsizing in the tide!



Danielle on Track

Past pupil, Danielle Aitchison gave one of the stand out Kiwi performances at the recent World Para Athletics Championships in Dubai coming home with a silver medal in the T36 200m sprint in an Oceania record time, followed by a fourth in the 100m.

Danielle was born with cerebral palsy and hearing loss and also had to overcome injury, heat and the nervousness of her first international competition to earn her place on the dais. "That was the greatest moment," recalls Danielle after she crossed the 200m line second only to world record holder China's Yiting Shi. "Everyone said I had such a smile on my face and that I looked really happy."

As an emerging world class athlete, Danielle has now set her sights on the Tokyo Paralympics in 2020 and believes she has more to give in terms of her athletics career.

While training for this event, Danielle will continue studying part-time at the University of Waikato aiming to complete a Bachelor of Social Studies majoring in Education and Society. Her career dream is to be an Early Childhood Education Teacher.

Emma Performs at Ukulele Festival

HPC Student Emma Reid was one of more than 1500 young people enjoying making music at the New Zealand Ukulele Festival at Waitakere recently. Emma was on stage, playing lead ukulele with three other squad members for the opening song - the ukulele anthem.

The aim of the NZ Ukelele Trust which stages the event each year is for kids to develop a love of music through the four stringed instrument.

Emma chose music options as a Junior student and is an example of how the Trust can influence and develop music in people's lives.

Emma had a great time on the day and looks forward to doing it all again in 2020 as a senior squad member with her new electric ukulele!



Third Form Class of 1958 Reunites

It was a day for catching up on old class mates, many of whom had not seen each other since school days some 61 years ago, when the third form class of 1958 held a gathering for lunch at the Ngatea Hotel recently. At that time, Hauraki Plains College was known as Ngatea District High School and included primary as well as secondary pupils.

The reunion was organised by Maureen Brown (nee Hickman), who had the get together on her bucket list after retiring. **"The most interesting time was as everyone arrived trying to put their names to faces after 61 years. Most of us hadn't seen or heard from each other since school days. Everyone enjoyed going back over the teachers we had and hearing of their different experiences. Sadly as far as we know, eleven pupils have passed away, eight we couldn't contact and seven were unable to attend,"** said Maureen.



After the luncheon, a number stayed on for a look around their old school and to admire the pioneer statue at the Hugh Hayward Domain, which was created by artist Paul Dibble, also a third former in 1958.

Maureen has received requests from those unable to attend and as a result, the class of 1958 is looking forward to another catch up, possibly in May next year.

Beginning of Year Arrangements

Back to School Start Dates:

Tuesday 28 January is first day back for Years 9 and 13s. The day will start with a powhiri at 9am. All are welcome. Students will spend the first day with their River Guide and Year 13s supporting them. Please bring a pen and some lunch.

Wednesday 29 January whole school back.

2020 Course Confirmation:

Year 12s: Tuesday 21 January 9am to 3pm

Year 13s: Wednesday 22 January 9am to 3pm

Other levels: Year 11 options are mostly sorted. We will contact a small number of Year 11s who may need to reselect subjects due to a change in the timetable structure.

Years 9 and 10 students will be given information to choose their subjects on the first day back.

Automatic Payments:

We have an automatic payment scheme to help families **spread their student's costs across the whole year. This** may include Uniform, Stationery and Camps but cannot include Sports related fees.

If you would like to set up an AP, a deposit of \$85.00 is required, as is your bank account number on signing up for AP.

To purchase stationery and uniform using the AP system you must be signed up to our system first, when we will issue you with purchase cards.

Payments can be made either weekly, fortnightly or monthly at minimum amounts of: Weekly - \$20, Fortnightly - \$40, Monthly - \$75, and are to be paid up by end of October.

Stationery :

Stationery lists will be available on the school website from early January.

Our Stationery shop will be open from Monday 20 January 2020 9am to 3pm each day of this week.

Stationery can be ordered online and then picked up on any of the following days or given to your child on the first day of school. Please allow 24 hours for the order to be processed before picking up.

The following dates are set aside for each year level to avoid huge lines waiting; however if you need to come on another day because, for example, you have children at different year levels, this is fine.

Monday 20 January: Year 9 stationery

Tuesday 21 January: Year 12 course confirmation and stationery

Wednesday 22 January: Year 13 course confirmation and stationery

Thursday 23 January: Year 10 stationery

Friday 24 January: Year 11 stationery

Uniform:

Uniform is to be purchased from Hammer Hardware Ngatea (except Black Roman sandals) which is open 7 days a week (Phone 07 867 7393)

Bus Contacts:

Murphy Buses - 07 868 6265

Dee's Hire, Paeroa - 07 862 6985

Tairua Bus Co. - 027 211 0983

Thames Area Bus Service - 07 868 6265