

Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



Hayward Farm hens – free ranging in lockdown

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:



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School as we've never known it

It started in Wuhan, China, with a report to the World Health Organisation (WHO) of a pneumonia of unknown cause on 31 December 2019. The **pandemic quickly became a global phenomenon with NZ's first case** was reported on 28 February 2020 and a four level alert system was introduced to manage the outbreak within New Zealand. On 23 March at 1:30pm, the Prime Minister announced that we were moving from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 4, giving schools less than 2 hours to say good bye to students and 48 hours to prepare for the nationwide lockdown.

The only previous time when schools have been closed across NZ was due to the polio epidemic in 1948. On that occasion, the Correspondence School stepped into the breach, preparing lessons to be sent to every home in the country, as well as radio broadcasting lessons from January to mid April.

The Stay Home message meant schools shutting down for the foreseeable future and all learning switched to online. At HPC, teachers had to quickly move into unfamiliar territory, learning how to use digital tools to create online classes, connect with and teach students, distribute assignments, answer questions, give feedback and grade assessments. A Student Support Register was set up so we could track those students who were struggling, either with the learning or emotional wellbeing issues, and provide the much needed extra support. We sent out nearly 200 Chromebooks (small laptops) for students who did not have their own. Others who did not have an internet connection were sent hard copy learning packs.

COVID-19 is an historical event and just as past generations remembered life in the depression and world wars, so too will this generation remember what life was like under COVID-19 lockdown. This community newsletter endeavours to capture some perspectives of this time.

Back to School Announced

On Monday 11 May, the Prime Minister announced that NZ would move to Alert Level 2 and schools would be open and safe for students and staff to return the following week.

School's back 18 May





Board of Trustees Update

With the move from complete lockdown to Alert Level 3, the school grounds and gardens are again under control after four weeks of no attention. The dry conditions helped here a bit and so luckily nothing was too out of control. The Wharenui block has been removed and the area re-laid ready for grass.

The classroom blocks are being prepared for occupation for students and staff when we get the go ahead from the Ministry to do so. We have no idea at the moment what this will look like but word is that it may be a mixture of home based learning and year level group attendance.

Students and teaching staff have been working remotely, as is the BOT, with our meetings being held on line. Thanks to Ngaire and the Senior Leadership Team for setting the school up to operate for distance learning. This is generally going well though the staff are aware some adjustments need to be made so there is a balance between enough work for students but without them becoming overloaded.

We are currently working on getting the school up and operating again and looking forward to a new normal with our school Community back together.

Andrew Gordon, BOT Chair



Principal's Comment

We have heard many times in the last few weeks that we are all in this boat together and we need to pull together, adjusting to a new normal of life in our lockdown 'bubbles' if we are to successfully beat the Corona virus pandemic.

The significance of doing the right thing for the common good cannot be underestimated, but while we may all be weathering the same COVID-19 storm, we are not, however, in the same boat.

Some people are enjoying time out from the hectic pace of life; and learning to garden, cook and go for unhurried walks. Others are still trying to manage a business from home under the most intense and challenging of conditions. Some are enjoying the opportunity to reflect and spend time **with self; others can't wait to be back with family, friends and work colleagues.** Some are missing cafes and shopping; others are wondering how they are going to make their food last for the week. Some are reconnecting in creative ways with family, others are in households where parents are not coping and kids are at risk. Some are in secure work; others have suddenly lost jobs. Some are working hard and continue to be well paid; others are not working but are still being paid; and there are others like our farmers who are working long hours in a disastrous drought for little reward.

Yes we are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat.

Ngaire Harris



HPC Appoints Business Manager

With a budget of over \$8 million annually and 83 staff, the Board of Trustees has created the role of Business Manager. The key role of the Business Manager is to provide strategic direction and

leadership of finance and property including the development of the Hayward Farm.

Scott Russell, appointed to the position, has had the 'not normal' experience of starting the position under lockdown: "Thank you for the warm welcome to Hauraki Plains College, I am very excited by this opportunity to work with Ngaire and the team here. As the new Business Manager at HPC I already see great potential and opportunity here, I really am looking forward to what we can achieve together.

Some of the background I have that lead me to HPC includes Orchard Management, Innovation Contractor with Zespri and for the last 9-10 years I have worked in multiple roles for Downer NZ.

During my time at Downer I have spent a lot of my focus in the Open Space Management team (all the green stuff) where I ended up as the Regional Contract Manager for the Waikato region.

As you can probably tell by my career selections above, my passion sits in the primary sector and most of my qualifications reflect this with the base of my Resume reading Horticulture and business development/management.

So to cap off the quick introduction, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity of joining the HPC community and am looking forward to this new venture and if you cannot find me at my desk there is a good chance I am out on the Firth fishing and diving or at the back of the farm hunting to keep the lambs safe.

That is me in a nutshell, feel free to introduce yourself when you see me out and about."



Life in Lockdown; Perspectives of our School Community

Teachers:



Jo Smith (Mathematics)

I have loved the opportunity to develop my skills and use of online applications. Screencastify has been great as has good old fashioned videos of me solving equations on my mini whiteboard!! I have enjoyed seeing the majority of students begin to take more responsibility and increased agency in their learning. The improvement in the

way students seek feedback has been one of the big positives from my perspective. Instead of receiving emails saying "I don't know what to do???", I now get emails (often with pictures from maths books of examples of work attached), that say "Hey Miss, this is what I have done so far, I am stuck on the bit where I have to.....". I love this!

Challenges are definitely the amount of screentime daily and constant stream of emails. If students are stuck in class, it's often simple 30second walk over to their desk, quick demo and they are back on track. In our "new normal" it is often a couple of emails to make contact, followed by a few more emails to organise a time for a Google Meet or a video recording needing to be made and sent to the student! Definitely more time consuming but that's what is needed for success!

I also love the differentiation I can provide in an online environment. Some students use my weekly planning schedule and then develop their own "timetable" to achieve the weekly goals form this, others like to follow my plan lesson, by lesson each day. Knowing all students have online access also allows me to provide a variety of learning task options (links to online sites, links to video tutorials, links to worksheets of all levels etc) and students select the option that is best for them. I also like the fact that the students are now responsible for providing me with evidence of their learning by placing it into the "evidence folders" a system we have created as a class (10, 11 and 12MAT) and is working really well!



Kiera Pennell (PE)

As a PE teacher I am definitely missing being outside and running around. The increased screen time and being in front of the computer for most of the day has been a challenge for me for sure. Our students and teachers have done a great job of being flexible and adaptable during this time. The kids have adapted so well and are embracing the

challenges posed by isolation. The feedback I have received is that they are enjoying spending time with their families. The students who are really self motivated have excelled during this online period. The overwhelming feedback I have had from my senior classes is that they are enjoying having the opportunity to work at their own pace. We are lucky to have such driven students.

What has been great during this lockdown is the big focus on people's wellbeing with this being particularly emphasised and reinforced in the media. This aligns nicely with what we are doing in PE, where our juniors are doing one thing each day to improve their wellbeing. One of the positives we can take out of this lockdown is that it has given everybody time. Time to sit back and do some small things to improve our own wellbeing. The key learning I am going to take from this lockdown period is how when we have lots of extra time we all seem to put our own wellbeing first. Whether it is doing some exercise, getting fresh air, reading, baking, all those little things we usually struggle to find the time to do. It's been so nice to see so many people out walking and biking each day. When we get busy our wellbeing and exercise seems to be the first thing that goes out the door. It would be nice if we could learn from this lockdown period and all take the time to continue looking after ourselves and keep our exercise up or whatever it is that we do up when we return to our busy lives.



Toni Brewer (Year 13 Dean)

It has been an interesting experience being a Dean in lockdown. I have been responsible for passing on key messages from various people (Sports Exec, Principal, Well being, Careers, Academic) and trying my best to keep students engaged in our Learning ready; Life ready; Work ready; World ready graduation programme.

I've tried to be a listening ear via email to students who have been struggling with managing life in their bubble and referring them to a Student Counsellor when necessary. I've provided students with next steps as to how to navigate different situations that arise from online learning, especially helping students to negotiate extensions when feeling overwhelmed, not understanding the work and offering different ways to structure their time to manage workload, family and work commitments.

I make home contact to see 'what's up' if students have not been engaging in their learning and encourage students to hang in there and just keep trying to do their best.

Amanda Fitzpatrick (River Guide)

We had a roll call every morning via Messenger before 9am. I would try to motivate students in my River Group (form class) with some quirky pictures and remind them that the River task was waiting. It was always about encouraging them to stick to a school routined day - once they got



Life in Lockdown; Perspectives of our School Community

that concept, it was easier for them. My River group was very honest and every Friday we had a Rate My Week activity; it was great to read and give feedback. Some times I would call them to brighten their day and just make sure they were ok. On Fridays, the message was always about enjoying their weekend.



Brian Woolcock (Learning Support)

Lockdown has been business as usual for the Learning Support Co-ordinator and team of teacher aides, working **with individual students, whānau, staff** and outside agencies to ensure students are given the help they need with their learning.

Brian Woolcock, Learning Support Co-ordinator reflects on the experience: **“Lockdown has been** pretty much what I'm doing now: working on one computer and keeping an eye out on the other one which is tuned on to emails. I've read and sent more emails in the last five weeks than in the rest of my life.

What has been amazing for me in lockdown is the incredible co-operation from whanau and staff. Make a suggestion to a couple of caregivers about how they can help out their child's learning and it is meant with an enthusiastic response. Email twenty five staff about what work can be sent to students who do not have email connection. Two hours after the last email had been sent, virtually everyone had replied.

Times are tough and obviously for most people a lot tougher than it is for someone sitting and looking at two computers, with a secure roof over his head and a job. What has been cool is the opportunity to look at everything with fresh eyes. Why do we do...? Why can't we....? How about...? What has been even cooler is the inevitable positive response from **whānau and staff**. Through this process, we will emerge stronger and better prepared for the future. I have never been prouder to be on the staff at HPC and be an Haurakian.



Joy Carter and Stu Green (Careers)

We have been using Google Meet (a real time online video tool) to interview Year 13s (7th formers) to help them with their career pathway planning for next year. Each interview takes on average 45 minutes. The lockdown has made it easier to get uninterrupted time with the **Year 13's and providing them with a list of tasks to do that will make their transition into tertiary learning and the workforce earlier.**



Apart from the interviews, we have **been invited into our students' homes** and lives, with some just getting out of bed and others keen and alert. Dogs, other people and parents in the background add to the scenarios. The interaction has been lovely and being able to talk with the students and do a personal check, and support if necessary, has been gold. While talking, laughing and joking with these students, we

hope we have brought a bit of light and enlightenment to them through their lockdown,



Angela Reynolds (School Counsellor)

The COVID-19 lockdown has been challenging for us all. We have had to adjust to new ways of working. Having to work from home over the last several weeks has meant having to use other methods of communication. During this time I have been using email, phone

calls and Google Meet to maintain contact with students I am working with. I have found Google Meet to be the best way to engage with students as it allows the face to face interaction that is helpful for good engagement. I am very thankful that we live in a world where we have the technology to be able to work from home in this way.

Parents:

“It's going better than hoped— he is up and on the computer doing school work before I am even up”

“Was having some issues when he got behind, but after talking to staff, all sorted. Thank you, a happy boy”

“Dealing with 2 teens and a pre-schooler at different levels with distance learning”

“Oh, teenager is definitely not lacking sleep”

“Learning when you want—I have one student up and working at 7.30am and the other starting later but working later”

“Having to police the amount of device time”

“The girls are really enjoying being autonomous with their school work and having extra daylight time to ride their horses and do their jobs around the property”

“To be honest most teenagers his age have been self-isolating for several years!”



Libby Morton

Life in Lockdown; Perspectives of our School Community

Students:

Letter from Jack Pallsbury (Year 10)

Dear Teachers,

I hope you are all well. I just wanted to touch base with you all to tell you my Ministry of Education (MOE) pack arrived late last week. I felt that I needed to contact you because I'm not doing any of the online learning. I am recording what work I have done and on what day.

For English, I am working on Chapter three - key language skills. I have also completed reading HUNGER by Michael Grant and am now reading two books: Robert Muchamores Novel (my favourite author) KILLER T, and A LIFE ON GORGE RIVER, a novel by Robert Long.

For science, I am working on chapter one and three - Introductory and Ecology. For maths, I am working on chapter one - number and algebra. For Hauora (Health and PE), I am working on sections one, two and three - Intro to health, wellbeing and relationships and bullying. I have been doing (a very tiring) five km run every second night with my family up probably the steepest hills on the farm.

I am just working my way through sections as it says to do in the "your learning from home pack guidelines." I will check in every Friday with an email like this explaining what I am working on. Is this ok with you all?

I have been lucky enough to have a small job on the farm spraying blackberry, inkberry, barbery and willow and also

working at the Inghams chicken farm doing tractor work. Would love to hear from another human being if there are any still out there?!

Thank you, Jack

Zoe Craggs (Year 13)

There have certainly been some challenges especially working through assessments without teacher guidance, but one on one Google Meets have really helped me, I just had to work up the confidence to ask.

Besides my studies, I've been trying to make the most of these unfortunate circumstances as much as I can. I've been getting in the kitchen, sewing and really getting out for walks and talking to my neighbours (at a safe distance) more than I ever have. I've been trying to get involved in helping the community and have signed up to become a part of the Student Volunteer Army, which I greatly encourage, and helped out making food parcels for at risk families in the community which we received a government grant for. All in all a time for reflection, growth and getting good sleep ins.

Caleidh Brown (Year 13)

One thing I have realised is that I took spending time with my loved ones for granted. I am able to see how much these people meant to me, and how it is important to surround yourself with people who lift you up. I am struggling with self-motivation to do my school work, as there are a lot of different distractions around me and I am also great at procrastinating. So that has been a challenge to try and create a balance, between my school work and doing other things I also enjoy.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day in lockdown was a new challenge for Student leaders who used their creativity to put together an online ANZAC assembly from their homes.

"Despite having a world pandemic, it is essential for us all as a nation to commemorate those who fought and served our country. Having the current global crisis doesn't change the importance of commemorating those who fought and those who had sacrificed their lives in order for us as a nation to be able to live in peace.

What is most important is that the current and future generations understand the importance of Anzac day. *Bailey Morrison, Year 13*

► **Photo of Year 12 student Danielle van Vliet plays the Lost Post for the student ANZAC online assembly.**



Year 10 Baking and Arts Challenge

Each week, Year 10 students are choosing and participating in a challenge; they have been baking and submitting art, photography, music, dance ... anything artsy.



Brad Cryer - German
Chocolate Cookies



Elizabeth Schouten



Billie Anderson



Jared Sewell



Summer Warmington

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

By Cordelia Mostert

As the shadows from the flames danced against her pale skin, the wind howled around our small, cold group. There were sixteen of us at the start, we are now on the twelfth day only seven remain. We were promised a once in a lifetime trip, and that we got. I can't sleep, their deaths sit vividly in my mind, but somehow I do and the scenes play again. *I nudge the spider out of my hair as we trample down hill* **"RUN!! DAMMIT RUN"** *Tori screams, the hot magma is slowly gaining. Tssss I can hear the sizzles as the lava claims its next victim. The smell of burning hair taints the air, scalding my throat and nose. Tears are streaming down my face as I hug David to my chest no longer hearing his heart beating. "TOM!!!...TOM WAKE UP!" I wake with a start realising that I had been screaming.*



Jess Slater-Bosley



Photo taken by Ella Meechan



Lucas Dowty



Dylan Adams (Pickle and Dog)

Life in Lockdown; Perspectives of our School Community

Sports

Level 4 Lockdown happened just as summer sports were finishing and students were gearing up for the winter season.

It was a very disappointed team of rowers who had put many hours of training in on and off the water for weeks on end to hear that Maadi Cup had been cancelled.

Likewise, fitness and skills sessions for winter sports came to an abrupt end before trials were underway and selections for coveted positions in the first teams.

Ever hopeful that we will still be able to salvage something of the winter season, students have been given a three level challenge, developed by Sports Director Ian Clark, to ensure students are ready to go when school is back. "Winter sporting codes are gearing up to start as soon as they are allowed to. All HPC players, coaches, managers and volunteers need to be properly prepared to participate at a moments notice. We should all use our lockdown time to be better prepared than ever before".



Photo taken by Lucy Barrier, Year 13

Keeping the Dream Alive

Two HPC students, Tom Leonard and Bailey Morrison were selected on the week of lockdown as potential trialists for the New Zealand Under 19 Team to compete at the rowing world champs in Slovenia. As water training was not possible in the lockdown, they were given a training programme each week to follow, allowing athletes to train in their homes with minimal equipment.

Rowing NZ are hoping to offer an opportunity for the Junior Longlist athletes to compete in a regatta against other Rowing NZ age group athletes later this year to give all athletes a focus for the winter.

Despite the disruption to their rowing careers, both Tom and Bailey are setting new goals such as making the Regional Performance Centre later this year and with their eyes firmly on the hope of representing New Zealand some time in the future.



Bailey Morrison



Tom Leonard

A Shout Out for the Green Pathway

While front line health and supermarket workers have, with good reason, been given many 'shout outs' under COVID-19 lockdown, the farming sector has been rather stoically holding their end up in challenging extended drought circumstances.

With two large sectors, tourism and international students, in turmoil, the country is now looking to our Primary Industries to get us through hard times and the anti-farming brigade has gone strangely quiet. **So this is a 'shout out' to everyone in our Primary Industries sector.**

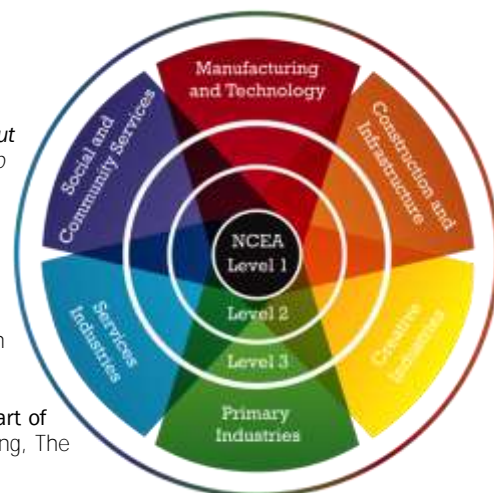
The sector is the backbone of the NZ economy, putting food on our tables and earning billions in exports each year. People working in these industries feed, shelter and clothe the world.

When we think of Primary Industries, we think farming or milking cows but that's just a small part of the job market. This sector includes Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy Manufacture, Forestry, Mining, The Seafood Industry, Landscaping, Equine Industries and Animal Care.

You could work outdoors, in some of the most stunning landscapes in the world. You may work alone, sometimes in isolated places, or with a like-minded team. There are a huge variety of jobs in the Primary Industries sector, with a diverse range of experiences and opportunities to be had. Here's just a small selection of the type of work you could do and the roles you could end up in:

- Analysing hydrology data
- Caring for and rearing animals, fruit and vegetable production, dairy farming
- Seed technologist, landscaper, looking after or measuring trees
- Machines and equipment operator or servicer, heavy vehicle driver, supervising factory operations
- Processing food or seafood, supply chain logistics
- Providing policy advice to government, research worker or scientist
- Aquaculture diver, marine farm worker, deckhand, vessel manager or marine engineer

Careers NZ recognises six broad employment pathways with Primary Industries coloured the green pathway.



Lockdown on the Farm

Lockdown has been a chance for our family to 'catch its breath' and to 'take stock' of things. In having all the kids home from school and Uni - I reflected that it may well be the last time we are all together as a family under the one roof for such a long period. In that regard it has been a blessing.

The whole family seems to be getting fit with such an excess of time on our hands - the kids have set up a make shift gym in the woolshed and are going for long runs each day. There has been much baking, some very odd eating times, and our kitchen occasionally resembles something akin to an incinerator and a bomb-site. It has also been a time of doing the simple things - like the chopping up of truckloads of firewood, helping out in the cattle yards, and planting a veggie garden - those time consuming chores that used to more readily occupy pre-social media generations.

Life has somehow slowed down without the myriad of social and sporting engagements. It has also been a time of thankfulness and reflection for us. We are thankful, that we can get out onto the farm each day with the dogs and avoid claustrophobia. Thankful for the recent rains which have finally broken the back of our 4 month drought. Thankful that, as farmers, we are part of an industry which, despite being regularly dismissed by various politicians in recent decades, still has an important contribution to make to this country and to our economic recovery. Yet also mindful, that there are many other local families and business involved in other sectors of our economy who are less fortunate and who will suffer in the coming months- through no fault of their own.

And finally, as we paid our respects to fallen soldiers on our back lawn, I wondered how the ANZAC's would feel about our generation using terms like, 'courageous', 'war footing' and 'sacrifice' to describe banking lending, public health rules and our staying at home.

Jason Barrier, Parent.

Proud to support the Hauraki Plains College Newsletter

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