


# 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](mailto:amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz)

## Descendants of Pioneers

The recent removal of an old prefab block at HPC exposed the high north facing gym wall, giving an opportunity for a creative way to honour our heritage. With the help of a scissor lift and a few cans of spray paint, the wall has been transformed with an 8 metre high image of a Plains pioneer. The mural was completed within four hours by an Auckland freelance mural artist with a background in graffiti art, under the trade name of Jonny4Higher.

The inspiration for Jonny's image came from past pupil Paul Dibble, who created the bronze pioneer statue on the Hugh Hayward domain. Paul himself grew up on a farm at Waitakaruru and attended Ngatea District High School from 1957–1960. As there was no Art department at this school, he went to Thames High and later studied at the Elam School of Fine Arts, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1967. Paul was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Massey University in 2007. A high point of his career is the successful commission of The New Zealand Hyde Park Corner Memorial in London, a permanent sculpture that was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen.

“The pioneer came to life so quickly and the final result looks spectacular,” commented Year 13 student Connor Howard, who filmed the creation of the wall mural from beginning to end.

The intention is to continue the heritage wall murals with one of Hako, the ancestor of the Mana Whenua (original inhabitants), the Ngāti Hako people. According to tribal history, Hako is said to have journeyed up the Piako River on the back of a whale.

### Whats on:

**Thursday 2 July**  
Junior Subject Parent Interviews  
4-8pm

**Friday 3 July**  
End of Term 2

**Monday 20 July**  
Start of Term 3

**Thursday 30 July**  
Blood Service

**Tuesday 11 August**  
Co-Curricular Photos

**Thursday 13 August**  
Te Kuiti Exchange (home)

**Wednesday 26 August**  
Mahurangi Exchange (away)

**More  
Than  
A School**   
Hauraki Plains College



## Board of Trustees Update

We have had a few questions raised around the Government's school donations scheme which the BOT had chosen to opt into, effective from the start of this year 2020.

The decision to opt in is an annual one made by the BOT. There is no obligation to opt into the scheme, and even though school donations are voluntary, many families feel the pressure on their household budgets, so we chose to become part of this initiative to alleviate the pressure and expectation for families. As part of the initiative, the school receives \$150 per student, per year with the proviso that we do not ask parents and caregivers for donations for anything that is a stay-at-school, curriculum related learning expense.

If you would like to get a better understanding of what is covered and what is not, follow this link to a two page Ministry of Education publication [Click Here](#) or search online "What families/whānau need to know about school/kura donations".

There are some trade off's in that the BOT needs to consider when deciding to opt in or out of the scheme. We will be making a decision at this month's meeting, as we have to get a reply to the Ministry by the 1<sup>st</sup> July for the 2021 year.

The Ministry have also requested that all schools that have plans for the extra maintenance fund that was announced last year, to get their draft planning back to the Ministry for approval. HPC received \$400,000. There are certain restrictions as to what we can spend the money on, however if we are given the green light, the fund will certainly help go towards our plan to systematically upgrade the internal layouts of the older class blocks and review class layouts, ventilation and heating.

Covid 19 Level One. – it's nice to now operate normally as a school again without having to manage social distancing. A lot of adjustments were made to how education was delivered to our children with a crash course for some to the world of on line learning and communication. The Education Review Office are doing a "Virtual survey" with Ngaire and myself in the next month to get a better overview on what works and what doesn't for our school and all other schools around NZ. Thanks to those who have responded to our questionnaires, as this information is very useful and insightful.

Andrew Gordon  
(BOT Chair)



## Principal's Comment

The image of a Plains pioneer on the gym wall is about appreciating a significant aspect of the cultural narrative of our school. A cultural narrative describes what is unique about a place and its people and are as much for non-Māori as for Māori. It recognises the influences of people, places, time and events in shaping who we are. It helps to build a common understanding of heritage, traditions and values. It helps us see that we are part of a much bigger story.

The story of our place not only provides an account of the past but also a lens that points the way to future potential. When we consider the work of those pioneers in draining the Piako swampland, it is a daily visible reminder about the importance of work ethic, along with being determined, disciplined and resilient. Author Art Williams said, "You beat 50 per cent of the people by working hard; the other 40 percent by being a person of honesty and integrity and standing up for something... the last 10 percent is a dog fight." Work ethic and integrity are as important today as they were when the swamplands were drained over 100 years ago.

Ngaire Harris  
(Principal)

**Purnell Lawyers**  
Phone: 07 868 8680

**Purnell**  
LAWYERS

**Insight Legal**  
Phone: 07 867 7014

**INSIGHT LEGAL**

# From the Archives



1912—Stopbank work  
Probably Puhunga Canal

## Ngatea District High School 1950 - 1st XV Rugby

*(You may recognize many local identities in this photo)*

**Back Row:** Henry Samuels, John Baigent, Viv Gabric, Barry Coldicutt, Joe Brown, Keith Godwin

**Middle Row:** Mr Ross Swap (Teacher), Keith Williams, Russell Lipscombe, Peter Ashford, Des Williams, Colin Carr, Noel Fox, Peter Connor

**Front Row:** Jack Turner, Bruce Shelley, Toko Samuels, Tom Keane, Jack Schuler



Many thanks to Robyn Hudson for the donation of a girls hat and old homework diary for the Dog Box archives. Says Robyn, "I remember being soooooo shy and trying to keep below the radar. I enjoyed college and all the friendships made and 3F have all stayed in touch."

Robyn attended HPC from 1969—1972



# Whānau Page

## Te Māngai Kōrero o Puhangateuru (Nga Ate) The Mouthpiece of Puhangateuru

### Te Kāreti o Hauraki Hauraki Plains College

#### He Tohu Kaitiaki: Hiki Te Wairua: Uplifting the Spirit

The arrival of the dolphins in the Piako was a timely event with the school welcoming back the students after the lockdown. Some people may have seen the dolphins as an exciting time, but, for me it was a tohu (sign) to signify the clearing of the way for the students to return safely. Just like our tupuna (ancestor) Hako who along with his tohora (whale) cleared the way for his people to settle this whenua (land). The dolphins to me were sent by Hako to protect our return and to hiki te wairua (uplift our spirit).



Photo supplied by Christine Beagley

#### Wharenui Project: Te Reo o Nga Tupuna: The Voice of Our Ancestors

With the lockdown now lifted, our aim is to start moving forward with our progress to put together ideas and conceptual plans for the development of our new wharenui.



Students from the senior Design and Visual Communication class have been working on putting together designs for the new wharenui project. I have been very impressed with their concepts and design elements that they have created. The incorporation of Puhangateuru (raupo) Ngāti Hako Kōrero and Te Kōrero o Te Tauwiwi (Early Pioneers) is inspiring. I look forward to seeing the final designs and hope to share these with the other committee members.



Designs drawn by Tristan Hull Year 13

#### He Kōrero Aroha: A Heartfelt Message

*Takoto mai e kui, kua hoki koe ki te kainga o to tupuna. Ki Hawaiki nui, Hawaiki roa, Hawaiki pamamao. He mihi ki a koutou nga putiputi o te marae o Kerepehi, ahakoa kua wheturangitia I te korowai o Ranginui. Ka ora tonu koutou i te whakaaro, te manawa hoki o to koutou iwi. E kui ma, moe mai moe mai moe mai.*

It is with a sad heart that we farewell one of our beloved kuia Nana Ani Reta. Nana Ani along with our other kuia Nana Sally and Nana Charlotte who have also passed away. She has been an integral part with our connection to Ngāti Hako and Kerepehi Marae. Thank you for the aroha (love) and manaaki (caring) you gave to the students, staff and the community. I know you will be reunited with your friends and are enjoying having a good old chat. Arohanui ki a koe. Lots of love to you.

Matua Normie Anderson

## Ani and John Reta

### Ani Reta (Wirihana)

29 September 1932 - 30 May 2020

Ko Ngati Tara, Tokanui, Tawhaki, Koi me Hako nga iwi. Ko Tainui te waka, Tikapa te moana, Te Aroha te maunga, ko Ohinemuri te awa, Ko Hauraki te whenua, Ko Ngahutoitoi raua ko Kerepehi nga marae.

Born during the Depression years in 1932 at Rotokohu (Paeroa) to Rora and Wiriharai Wirihana, Ani had a humble upbringing and recalls living in a shack with dirt floors and enough holes in the roof to see the stars at night.

As the youngest of her family she was chosen to go to school as the whānau identified they needed someone who could speak, read and write English. She went to Primary school in Paeroa in the days when pupils were forbidden to speak Te Reo. Her schooling came in handy for the wider whanau as Ani attended land court hearings and was able to translate the paperwork.

Orphaned at the age of six, she ended up living in Kerepehi with whānau and attended Ngatea District High School. After school, Ani worked as a nurse assistant at Waihi Hospital on £6 per pay. Since then, Ani had a variety of employment working in a sewing factory, dairy factory and Kōhanga Reo, where she gained her tohu (qualifications).

John Reta was born at Ngahutoitoi Marae and also orphaned at a young age. After schooling at Te Puru and Thames, he left school at 13 years of age to take up employment for the Dairy Company at Kerepehi and also with Kerepehi Transport.

In 1953, Ani and John met and married, having six children who all attended Kerepehi Primary and Hauraki Plains College. Both John and Ani were active in the community and were instrumental in gaining funding for the development of the Kerepehi Marae and Wharenuī. John was also on the Thames Valley Māori Rugby Board and both served as Māori wardens.

The couple were married for 66 years, with John Reta passing away on 13 February earlier this year and Ani three months later. "John suffered from dementia in the last few years but always knew my Nana when she visited," reflected grand daughter Ali.



## Whats happening with NCEA?

For senior students, COVID-19 lockdown has been a significant disruptive force in endeavouring to achieve qualifications.

As a consequence, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has announced changes to what is required at each level of secondary school qualifications (NCEA).

At NCEA Level 1, for each 5 credits achieved, students can gain up to 10 Learning Recognition credits, effectively reducing the number of credits needed from 80 to 70. At NCEA Level 2, up to 8 Learning Recognition credits can be awarded, reducing the number of credits from 80 to 72. UE requirements have also been reduced from 14 to 12 credits in approved subjects, making it easier to meet University Entrance requirements.

Many teachers are also giving extensions of assessments required at the end of this Semester, in the hope that students will take this opportunity to ensure they are achieving as many credits as possible. As in the past, students who have yet to complete their qualification in November will be required to stay at school for more intensive support, while others either have study leave or are free to take up holidays jobs.

For readers who sat School Certificate and Bursary, the current system is much more flexible and is not reliant on one exam at the end of the year. Students can accumulate credits with each assessment throughout the year and many students do not sit exams at the end of the year as happened under the old system.

### Certificate Endorsements and Course Endorsements

To get a certificate endorsement this year you need 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, instead of the usual 50. Your Learning Recognition credits can't count towards an endorsement. To get a course endorsement this year you need 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course rather than 14. You still need to achieve at least 3 credits in externals and 3 in internals.

### Changes to exam dates and portfolio due dates

Portfolio due dates and exams for NCEA and NZ Scholarship have been moved later to give you more time to learn and prepare. Please check the [updated exam timetable](#). If you take subjects where you submit a portfolio (like Design and Visual Communications), the due date for your portfolio is now 12 November 2020.

### Changes to University Entrance

UE requirements have been reduced from 14 to 12 credits in three UE-approved subjects. You will still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet literacy and numeracy requirements to be awarded University Entrance. It is still important that you complete the standards necessary for the course of study you want to undertake at university. Check any important prerequisites with the University you want to attend.

### And finally

Keep working to make sure that you achieve the standards you need for your NCEA. Remember that if you continue to achieve you will be able to gain additional credits this year that will count towards your NCEA. You don't need to do anything else. NZQA will do the calculations before you get your results.

# Construction and Infrastructure Pathways

This month we are focusing on Construction & Infrastructure.

## Some Career Pathways:

### Architecture, Technical Design and Mapping

Te Hoahoa Whare, Te Hoahoa Hangarau, Te Whakamahere

*This industry may be for you if you are interested in:*

- creating, designing and planning products, urban areas, or structures such as buildings or boats
- preparing plans, drawings, models or maps
- analysing and interpreting information
- using computer-aided design (CAD) software

Architects design buildings, gardens and outdoor spaces

### Construction - Mahi Hanga

*This industry may be for you if you are interested in:*

- physical work and working with your hands
- working with tools, machinery and equipment to do building, repair or maintenance work
- following and developing plans
- problem solving
- making calculations, and preparing estimates and quotes for costs and materials

Construction workers build and repair buildings, roads and outdoor areas

### Cleaning and Gardening - Te Whakapaitanga me te Mahi Māra

*This industry may be for you if you are interested in:*

- working outdoors
- cleaning and organising
- physical work and using practical skills

Gardening and cleaning careers are good if you enjoy physical work

### Infrastructure - Whakahaerenga Hanga

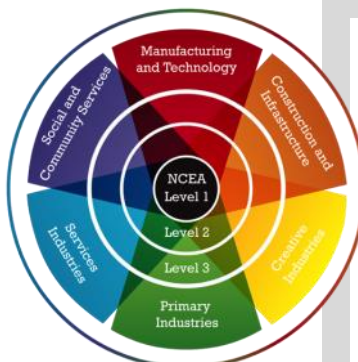
*Infrastructure jobs may be for you if you are interested in:*

- planning and designing large projects
- interpreting and following diagrams and plans
- using technical, mechanical or engineering skills
- using practical skills, including working with your hands, tools or heavy machinery.

Infrastructure workers use planning and practical skills in places such as recycling plants.



HPC students at work



**HPC Girls Rugby team** are one of 23 schools who have been donated a signed Gallagher Chiefs "Women in Rugby Jersey. The pink and purple tinge is to commemorate wahine of all levels who play and support rugby. The black in the jersey is to acknowledge the female rugby players from Chiefs country who have represented New Zealand at an international level. The arrow patterns on the jersey speak to the significance of always moving forward, both on the rugby field and in the promotion of females both playing and supporting rugby.

The Gallagher Chiefs donned the Women In Rugby Jerseys when they faced the Highlanders in Dunedin for the first match of Investec Super Rugby Aotearoa. The donated jerseys are to help raise funds for sports equipment, travel or apparel for their female rugby teams.

**Congratulations** to the following students who won a Sports-Ball in the Stationery Shop Draw for 2020. We would like to thank **OfficeMax** for their generous donation of all 40 Sports-Balls.

#### Year 9:-

Jaxon Haskell  
Jed Coulter  
Matthew Simpson  
Ethan Gaskin  
Antonio Alvarado  
Samuel Corkill  
Tayla Stephenson  
Nithini Godawala  
Tyra Tutuki  
Calum Lee  
Te Koha Harrison  
Cullen Crowe  
Damian Wenzlick  
Dylan Adams  
Clare Von Bibra  
Manawa Williams

#### Year 10:-

Dakota Muir  
Ella Pirie  
Zoe Bourne  
Ryley Ballantine-Young  
Grace Cairns  
Briar Deeming  
Brock Cameron  
Seth Pascoe  
Jimi Sharp  
Joshua Cochran  
Connor Green  
Danny Sayer  
Cooper Green  
Jared Sewell

#### Year 11:-

Alyson Hood  
Ryan Courtney  
Rhian Ball  
Lara Forsyth  
Anthony Barker  
Aleisha Charteris  
Nathan Everett  
Sophie Duggan  
Lachlan Banks  
Learning Support



## Past Students in Partnerships

**L & S Construction** is a construction partnership between two ex HPC students John Leonard and Glenn Steen.

John Leonard is from Ngatea, and grew up on a dairy farm. John's building career started as an engineer in the New Zealand Army. This experience and building overseas in East Timor was character building for John, and developed his strong work ethic, discipline, and eye for detail.

John then started his building apprenticeship in 2001 with Brian McCormack Builders, a local building company. John achieved Qualified Carpenter status in 2004. On completion of his training, John worked in the UK for 3 years as a carpentry foreman, returning to New Zealand to contract his building services in Auckland also as a carpentry foreman of various renovation jobs.



From an early age, Glenn knew he wanted to be a builder. He started his building career as soon as he left school.

In 1998 he gained an apprenticeship with a local builder, Ron Thompson. Glenn's apprenticeship was 8,000 hours over 4 years. He completed this in 2002 qualifying with a Level Four Certificate in Carpentry. "It was such a proud moment for me," said Glenn in reflecting on the day he was signed off.

Glenn then moved to Auckland and worked for a family owned building business which specialised in renovation work. During his time with this business he completed an 18 month project of Heritage work on a site at the bottom end of Waiheke Island. This project has added an entirely new skill set to Glenn's portfolio, one he is proud of and keen to use again.

During a brief stint in the UK Glenn met up with his good school mate, John, who was also a qualified builder. A passing comment of going into partnership to create a building business grew into reality and, in 2010, L&S Construction Ltd was established.

L&S Construction is now a team of nine builders. "Being brought up in a rural environment was good training for physically demanding work. Knowing how to put in a good day's work is essential, as is being able to work in a team. Kids who get into team sports, whether that is rugby, hockey, whatever have a real advantage for the work force especially where everything in building is a team effort."

Glenn says he owes a lot to former teacher Bruce Ratcliffe who helped him into his original apprenticeship. "I always knew what I wanted to do at school and life is good."

## Step it Up!

Step it Up is a new initiative at HPC where teachers are sharing an interest with students. There are over 50 workshops on offer.



# Milly travels the world

"In 2009 I was head girl of HPC, which was a life-changing experience for me. It provided me with the foundations and leadership skills that I still carry with me today. I went straight from HPC to Waikato University where I studied a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary). It was in the final year of my studies that I caught the travel bug and so I handed in my last assignment and boarded a one-way flight to Berlin, Germany. It was here I feel like my life truly began.

Since then I have travelled to over 40+ countries across five continents. I have built my career in the travel and tourism industry, working as a tour guide in Europe and Asia. I was fortunate enough to be able to work for six months of the year as a tour guide and then travel for the other six months. For years I have lived out of a backpack, seeing as much of the world as I could. I eventually worked my way up the ladder and now I own two businesses: a hostel in Thailand and a wine tour in Australia. I write this whilst sitting in Northern Ireland, where I am writing a book compiling all of my adventures over the past nine years. You can check it out on social media under the name Dance Barefoot Again, shoot me a message and say hi! I'm more than happy to answer any travelling questions you may have.

My advice to students is to say yes to as many opportunities that you can. Even if it's scary and actually, especially if it's scary. You only get one shot and your twenties will be some of the best years of your life, make sure you can look back at them and know that you lived them to the fullest."

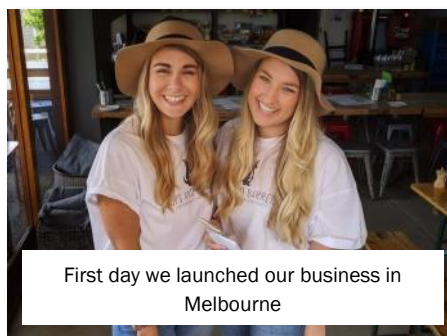
*Milly Tamati (HPC student 2005–2009)*



Taj Mahal, India



Dubai deserts



First day we launched our business in Melbourne



Chichen Itza, Mexico

Proud to support the Hauraki Plains College Newsletter

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