

# 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

Daniel Mounsey



Donelle Steer



### Unplugged

At the end of term three we finally held our first music concert for 2020. Our annual *Unplugged Concert* is an intimate showcase in the Music Room which allows some of HPC's solo performers, in particular our senior students, a chance to shine. Tickets quickly sold out and for those who attended, they were not disappointed in the quality of talent in the room.

As always, the Jazz Band, Guitar Ensemble and Choir all performed exceptionally well under the leadership of the itinerant music tutors, who are available weekly to give free lessons to students, in Guitar, Drums, Piano, Bass, Woodwind and Vocal Training.

*Unplugged* gave some of our departing Year 13 students in particular a chance to show case their development in skills. Outstanding performances by Tristin Hull (Piano), Daniel Mounsey (Guitar), Donelle Steer (Vocals) and Adam Starkey (Piano) were among the highlights.

For Cultural and Arts Leaders, Daniel Mounsey and Donelle Steer, it was their last *Unplugged Concert* after several years of performing in a range of concerts.

Donelle originated from Hikuai Primary and has been a leading vocalist in Smokefree Rockquest bands and the Choir. She is also keen on Netball and has been a member of the HPC Motocross team for her five years at college. "I enjoy performing at the *Unplugged Concert* because it is much smaller and more intimate than larger concerts. By taking away the big amps and such, you get to see more of the audience and the performance becomes more personal". Donelle is intending to go to Otago University next year to study a Bachelor of Arts and Science, majoring in Neuroscience and Psychology with a minor in Criminology.

Fellow Cultural and Arts leader, Daniel Mounsey is recognised for his extraordinary musicianship on the Guitar. Daniel is the grandson of John and Lynn Mounsey who are known for their contributions in music to the Plains community. Over his time at HPC, Daniel has been involved in Jazz Band, Stage Band, Guitar Ensemble and Rockquest. His focus this year has been on creating his own music to portray his thinking and ideas. Daniel's future plans are to study Music at Victoria University.

For those who missed out on tickets or unable to attend, the full show is available on the school Facebook page.

**More  
Than  
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

## Principal's Comment



### Making decisions today that will still be good for tomorrow.

In the same way that the fourth runner often determines the outcomes of a relay race, Term 4 is the business end of the school year, a year that was significantly disrupted by the COVID lockdown.

While some students thrived, others struggled without the input of a face to face teacher during lockdown. After their return, Ministry bulletins emphasised the importance of putting wellbeing first in the face of rising anxiety levels amongst young people.

Rather than give students an excuse to opt out, we have seen the last few months as an opportunity to build resilience - the capacity to stand strong and not give in, in the face of challenging circumstances. No matter what the new 'normal' is going to look like, our

world has changed forever. Some futurists describe it as a VUCA world - volatile, unpredictable, complex and ambiguous. Now more than ever, we need to raise a generation who can cope with rapid and unpredictable change.

We have continued to give a clear message to students that achieving their NCEA qualifications is a 'not negotiable'. This has been backed up by additional support in the form of individualised programmes and small group teaching. If life seems stressful in the fallout from a global pandemic, try a future employment pathway without a meaningful qualification.

One description of wisdom is to make decisions today that will still be good for tomorrow. We believe that by a 'high expectations, no blame, no excuses' approach, we are putting our students' tomorrows at the forefront of decision making.

Ngaire Harris  
Principal

## Board of Trustees Update



We have recently had a change of student representative on the Board. We would like to welcome Morgan Harris as the new student representative and would like to thank Molly Smith Soppet for her term on the Board. She offered valuable input to the table.

The Board recently held a strategy and planning day to go over our strategic overview for the next two years. Focusing on three goals - to engage students in work that matters, to support learners to navigate purposeful pathways and to develop Hauraki Plains College to be more than a school.



Morgan Harris

We discussed skills versus qualifications and how we can equip students that choose not to follow the path to university. As always we endeavour to offer a high quality of education to all students and encourage and support those that wish to further their education after leaving school; however, we also plan to offer learning opportunities to those that chose to follow a path into the work force. To support these students we plan to offer training in areas aligned with the current or future needs of the work place. This is empowering for these students and gives them a sense of purpose which they would otherwise not have. They have the chance to learn skills in a vocation they are interested in. If these options were not made available they could potentially miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

We are also looking at extending this learning to encourage entrepreneurial training. Our aim is to broaden prospects for those that perhaps may choose to follow their own pathway into small business. This will run alongside our existing Gateway Programme (which was recently featured in the Hauraki Herald).

This term we are in the process of engaging a painting firm to undertake the external painting and cleaning of the school commencing as soon as possible. This was last fully done the end of 2011.

Andrew Gordon  
(BOT Chair)

**Purnell Lawyers**  
Phone: 07 868 8680

**Purnell**  
LAWYERS

**Insight Legal**  
Phone: 07 867 7014

**INSIGHT LEGAL**



## Academic

### NZIBO Achievers

NZIBO fosters interest, participation, and excellence in Biology through participation of secondary school students in the New Zealand Biology Olympiad Programme. Annually around 450 secondary school students from throughout New Zealand participate in this programme.

The examination is the first step in the NZIBO programme, in which HPC had eight students participate this year. The examination is aimed at Year 12 students with an interest in Biology and who would like to be considered for selection for the New Zealand team, although other talented students may attempt this examination.

Congratulations to Ryan Courtney and Alexander Veldsman who have been selected to participate in the online tutorial program with New Zealand's top scientists, giving them the opportunity for selection for the New Zealand team which will compete at the International Biology Olympiad in 2021 hosted by Portugal.



*Alexander Veldsman and Ryan Courtney*

### Scholarships

Going to a University or a Polytechnic is an expensive time for students and their families / whānau so any help with a scholarship is always appreciated. To date, a large number of Year 13 students have been offered more than \$200,000 in Scholarship funding.

Congratulations to the following students who each received \$1000 from the Townshend-Thomas Charitable Community Trust for their future pathway. The trust formed by Mark and Diane Townshend, are to serve the Ngatea, Hauraki and wider district communities; to relieve poverty, advance education and provide benefit to the community. The name of the Trust celebrates the earlier community contribution of Mark's family, namely his paternal grandparents Charles and Margaret Townshend, maternal grandparents Jack and Jess Thomas, and parents Gray and Marie Townshend.



*Molly Reader (Teaching)*



*Abby Reader (Forensic Investigation)*



*Adam Starkey (Sound Tracks)*



*Nathan Starkey (Computer Science)*



*George Wright (Business)*



*Lennex Archer (Landscape Construction)*

## Cultural and Arts

### Academic Excellence

Although senior students still have external exams ahead of them, a significant number have already achieved sufficient credits at Excellence level to attain the NCEA Qualification with Excellence. In any given year, nationally less than 20% of students achieve an Excellence endorsement.

Congratulations to the following students who have already achieved the 50 credits required for an Excellence endorsement:

**Level 1** - Ella Ashford-Beck, Ania Ballantine, Anthony Barker, Brooke Barker, Chloe Biddles, Aleisha Charteris, Hunter Crowe, Alesha-Ann De Penning, Sean Ea, Michael

Ellis, Kayley Gibberd, Niamh Hill, Hayley Mackay, Rose Macready, Yuri Manickam, Alysha Read, Emma Reid, Rowan Wathen.

**Level 2** - Imogen Bjerring, Sarah Blake, Emma Gordon, Joseph Goudie, Morgan Harris, Irene Irvine, Maggie Martin, Bree McCowatt, Haley Munro, Daniella van Vliet, Alexander Veldsman, Lucy Barrier, Memphis McClelland.

**Level 3** - Shannon Aislabie, Shontelle Aitchison, Ceilidh Brown, Zoe Craggs, Jenna Doherty, Matthew Flooks, Kaylah Hood, Lewis Horder, Connor Howard, Gabby Hughes, Lily Maitland, Libby Morton, Daniel Mounsey, Holly Murray, Donelle Steer, Evana Main, Eleanor Merchant.

### Yr 11 Dance Class

Last term a number of Year 11 Dance students entered the 2020 NZ Dance Made competition. NZ Dance Made is a national dance competition that allows students to enter a dance of their choice in any genre. Students entered in the solo, duo/trio and group heats at the Auckland regionals which was a tough regional to get a placing. The top 3 scores in each category got the opportunity to go to nationals in Palmerston North. The students performed really well gaining a place in all the heats that we entered.

*Results as follows:*

**Solo:** 2nd Alysha Read; 3rd Isabella Wright

**Duo / Trio:** 3rd Alysha Read and Samantha Whittington-Slater

**Group Contemporary:** 1st Alysha Read, Rose Macready, Isabella Wright, Shanika Raikwar, Courtney Perret

**Group Hip Hop:** 2nd Samantha Whittington-Slater, Sarah Broadbent, Brooke McTaggart, Aiysha Hull, Hayley Gibbons and Molly Maitland



**Congratulations** to Rowan Wathen, Ben Shackleton and Isabella-Rose Beazley who were nominated for the Junior Theatre of NZ and performed in recent productions of "Finding Nemo" and "Frozen".

### Dance Scholarship Award for Amalea

Year 10 student Amalea Mikhailiadis-White has been awarded a scholarship nomination for from the New Zealand Association of Modern Dance. In normal times, the nomination gives the dancer a scholarship workshop for top dancers, although the weekend has been cancelled due to uncertainty caused by COVID.

Amalea's award comes from High Honours (97-100%) in Hip Hop, Contemporary Dance and Jazz. "A polished exam with wonderful style. Superb use of accents in the dance. Stunning!"



**Congratulations** to the "Bar Leaner Team" who **WON** the Young Enterprise Scheme Regionals. They are off to Wellington in December for Finals!! The bar leaners were made from recycled pallets.



### Seven Consecutive Wins in Thames Valley Championships

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball team for their 7th consecutive win in the Thames Valley Championship.

Prior to 2014, the HPC boys basketball teams had only won the Thames Valley competition once in 14 years. So, under long time coach Malcolm Cross, it was decided to put a boys programme together to return the mana to the HPC black singlet. It involved changing the culture to be more inclusive, with older boys mentoring and being role models for the younger players. It also involved the boys increasing their work ethic and being exposed to tougher competition (playing extra games and playing in the Cambridge League as well as the TV League).

In 2014, they won the TV Competition and in the following six years with four of the Year 13 players in the Senior Boys team this year have never lost in the TV Competition.

Mr Malcom Cross has coached the Senior Boys for five of the last seven years with Rory Vitasovich taking on the coaching role this year.



### Coulter Cup Comes Home

For most of the past eighty years, the ultimate trophy to attain for the secondary schools' rugby in the Thames Valley, has been the Coulter Cup.

The cup began with Mr Robert Coulter, Mayor of Te Aroha from 1921 to 1941 and a Member of Parliament who presented the cup for the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Rugby competition.

The first Coulter Cup match was played in 1938. During the early years of the Cup, seven high schools competed for it - Thames, Paeroa, Hauraki, Waihi, Te Aroha, Matamata and Morrinsville.

Matamata and Morrinsville went Waikato way in the 1950s, but Coromandel, Whangamata and Mercury Bay have since joined.

During World War two, the competition went into recess but started again in 1944. Since then HPC has won the Coulter Cup 34 times.

Notably from 1986 to 1998, HPC won the Coulter Cup 12 years in a row; forty years later, this is still an unbeaten NZ record for a provincial competition.

Congratulations to our current First XV led by Anthony Makiha and Luke Hill who captained this year's First XV to a back to back win of the Cup. Well done for bringing it home.



# Sports @ HPC



## Line Honours for MotoX Team

Paying it forward is an essential part of being in the HPC MotoX team, with a particular focus on supporting the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation which the team donates to annually. The team also has a weekly pantry box, which is then given to families in need.

The team caters for riders of all abilities, with attitude and school work coming before on the track performance. "Having 30 kids on motorbikes this year has been amazing but also a challenge to have three secondary school events in a row over the last three weeks," said Amanda Fitzpatrick who has organised the team for 15 years.

The team competed in the King of the Schools challenging finishing top school overall, after finishing runner up at the Trident High School Challenge, the Tauranga Boys School Challenge and the Rotorua Challenge. The team's last

event for the year is the Power Adventures Cross Country Schools Challenge through the Maramarua forestry which is a favourite for college riders.

"I am incredibly proud of our gutsy kids who are a majority of kids that just ride for fun and on the farm so to put them on a track to race is something to admire. Do I love this sport? No, but I love what it does for these kids. It gets them in the right mindset when it comes to attitude and school work come first". Commented Teacher-in-Charge Amanda Fitzpatrick after their team win.

"I am extremely grateful to Dene Humphry who gives up his time to come and coach the kids and ride with them. Always great to see the dads and mums out on the track with them riding, I would imagine very few sports can do that and I guess the reason why the team feel is so good is because parents must be with their kids when they ride - which is an awesome commitment from them".



## Football Black

Well done to HPC Junior Boys Football Black team, winners of Division 3 of the Waikato competition and finishing an unbeaten season with a further win in the end of season 5-side tournament.

## Shooting Team on Target

The HPC shooting team of Oscar Hutt, Katrina Bond, Nicholas Hutt, Nathan Everett and Aiysha Hull were clearly on target for the recent North Island, South Island and National Secondary school champs. Results as follows:

**HPC Shooting Team:** 3rd South Island, 3rd North Island

**Oscar Hutt:** 1st North vs South Island Skeet Team (Captain), 2nd South Island points score; 2nd South Island aggregate; 2nd North Island Skeet overall; 2nd NZ Skeet overall

**Katrina Bond:** 1st Girl, Fish and Game Individual Trophy Match; 3rd South Island girl points score; 3rd North Island girl points score

**Nicholas Hutt:** 3rd Boy, NZ single rise; 3rd Regional Waikato team (Captain), 3rd NZ skeet 2 person team; 4th NZ single rise trophy match





# Sports @ HPC



**Netball College 9A** — HPNC B Reserve Grade Championship Trophy

**Netball College Black** — HPNC C Grade Championship Trophy

**Hockey 1st XI** — Winners WSS Boys B Grade Hockey Competition



## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

The Snow Douglas Trust was established following the generous legacy of Snow (Trevor) Douglas to support students to follow their dreams. Year 10 student Jared Sewell is one of many who have benefitted from the Trust having recently completed requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

“Prior to commencing the Duke of Edinburgh award, I had an existing interest in the outdoors, especially hiking. On a hike in the Kaimais, I met a family who were involved with the award. I decided this would be the sort of challenge that would interest me.

The award comprises of three levels - bronze, silver and gold. I am about to complete the silver level which takes a minimum of six months to achieve. Each week I completed at least one hour from each of the three sections - voluntary service, skills and physical recreation. There are many activities that can count towards the award. I chose voluntary dog walking and maths tuition, piano lessons and hiking. There is also an adventurous journey section, which I enjoyed the most. This involved participating in a practice and qualifying journey of no less than 3 days and 2 nights with at least 7 hours of activity per day. I really enjoyed both journeys with a great group of other students from the

Hawke’s Bay Area. We hiked through the Ruahines in the practice journey and the Kawekas in the qualifying journey.

The award has given me great satisfaction through helping others and striving to be my best. It has also helped me in other areas such as building on my teamwork skills. The award shows commitment and achievement and will show I am an all rounder when it comes to future tertiary applications, scholarships and my CV.

I am extremely grateful to the Snow Douglas Trust, which has made all of this possible and I would highly recommend participating in the award.”

Jared Sewell



## The Family Connection

### The Mounsey Heritage

Cultural and Arts leader, Daniel Mounsey, is the grandson of John and Lynn Mounsey. John was a regular feature at gigs around the Plains and Lynn began teaching Piano at just 13 years of age.

John attended Ngatea District High School when it was just six classrooms and around 120 students. He recalls a very different school experience from what his grandson, Daniel has had. "We had very little choice of subjects and there was really very little for practical pupils. Military drill was compulsory for five years after the finish of World War Two. For that we had to wear khaki shorts, a tunic and cap and we did things like marching, and rifle practice. Discipline was tougher. Boys got the strap and once I got belted by my Maths teacher with a broom stick. I had been helping Colleen Bayer with some Maths and the teacher thought I was mucking around. My Mum and Dad told me to not complain and get on with it. At High School socials, it was the job of the 5th form girls to teach the 3rd form boys. The boys all sat on one side of the hall and the girls on the other". There were only two real sports on offer - rugby and cricket.

John was appointed as a Prefect in 1953 and 1954 and after that left to do a practical farming course at Massey College. He became interested in Music while waiting for the bus at Waitakaruru School; there the teacher Mr Anderson would teach him before school. Music teacher Gerard Pinnock also inspired his interest, teaching him Piano and the Pinnock Cup is still a feature of the HPC inter-house events.

John returned to the family farm and met and married Lynn Hall, a Music teacher from Thames. He spent a great deal of time doing gigs around the local area. Their three children, Catherine, Kevin and Sandra all attended HPC and were very involved in the annual school productions. Daniel's Father Kevin attended HPC from 1980 to 1984, enjoying being a competitive rower and school orchestra. "If what is available now was available when I was at school, I probably would have taken a different career," reflects Kevin. After leaving HPC, Kevin travelled to Canada to work as a farmer where he met his wife Angelique. They then returned to the Hauraki Plains, settling at Kaihere. "We appreciate the time our boys have had a college as we know this has helped them become the men they are today!"

### 1954 - PREFECTS



*Back Row:* John Wentworth, Wally Tukukino, John Adams, Raewyn Harris

*Front Row:* Cherry Phillips, John Mounsey, Lorraine Hayward, Russell Maxwell, Kathleen Jordan



*John and Lynn Mounsey*

## Farm News



*Past pupil James Barker rolling the new entrance way for the development project next to the Hayward Farm.*

The orchard has been pruned under the guidance of Business Manager Scott Russell, and the orchard and blue berries have fertilised, Both have been flowering really well with the bees having a wonderful time. The students have enjoyed the good weather to catch up on practicals on the farm with Year 12 working with chainsaws, Year 13s learning to operate an LUV and the Year 11s operating tractors. The school cross country took place on the farm with some Year 10 and Year 11 Agriculture students being the marshalls.



### Contact HPC:



PO Box 44  
Ngatea 3451



Phone (07) 867 7029  
Fax (07) 867 7020



[www.haurakiplains.school.nz](http://www.haurakiplains.school.nz)  
[amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz)