

Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



Frosty morning on the Plains - Photo captured by Amanda Fitzpatrick

Community Newsletter

Please note that this newsletter was closed off prior to the current COVID Level 4 lockdown. Please check our website for further information.

Key Dates

Tues 24 Aug

Out of Zone Info Evening 7pm
(postponed)

Wed 25 Aug - Blood Drive
(postponed)

Wed 1 Sept

Out of Zone ballot closes at Midday

Tues 14 Sept

Cultural Awards Evening 7pm
(to be confirmed)

Thurs 23 Sept

Senior Subject Selection Evening 7pm

Tues 28 - Thurs 30 Sept
Practice Exams

Wed 8 Sept - Senior Reports issued

Fri 1 October - Call back day

Fri 1 October - Last day of Term 3

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

Trust a Good News Story

Following the 90th celebrations of the founding of Ngatea District High School / Hauraki Plains College in 2002, a group of past pupils on the organising committee made the decision to found a Trust which would provide additional resources and opportunities for the college beyond what the Ministry of Education provides.

From this conversation, the Haurakian Charitable Trust was formally established in 2004 to enhance the educational, social and wellbeing outcomes for Hauraki Plains College and the local community. That was the beginning of a number of projects which have contributed significantly to the school.



The first project to get off the ground was the purchase of the original Hayward Farm, which was made possible by the generosity of a small number of local families who saw merit in the project. At the time, the intention was for profits from the farm to provide additional resourcing for the college. When a subdivision opportunity became available to meet the needs of a growing population in Ngatea, 28 acres (8.8 ha) was re-zoned for students to have 'hands on' experiences in agriculture, horticulture, bee keeping, building, poultry and the like.

The subdivision also enabled the Trust to purchase a larger farm at Waitakaruru, in order to build up a sustainable funding base for grants to the college. A further recent addition of a block of land now forms a 174 hectare farm milking 550 cows. Considerable work has been completed to ensure an effective dairy farming operation including the extension of the cowshed and development of races and fencing for the block.

The Trust is currently working with the college to continue the development of the Hayward Farm as a site for the delivery of Primary Industry and Trades hands on learning. The construction of a classroom on the farm and the establishment of a large shade house for growing trees under the Trees for Survival programme are two projects currently being considered.

Other projects the Haurakian Trust has either sponsored or initiated include the reconstruction of the Dog Box (the original school classroom); the Centennial (Sports) Centre; the Masonic Lodge for a Performing Arts Centre and 11 Orchard Road at the front of the school for a project yet to be decided.

As well as the provision of facilities to allow students to learn, the Trust has given over \$200,000 to assist the college with non-ministry funded purposes. The \$20,000 donated this year has enabled the college to employ an additional school counsellor. With the ongoing development of the Haurakian Charitable Trust Farm at Waitakaruru, the goal is to eventually provide \$100,000 annually to the college.

Current Trust members are Ciarán Tully (Chair); Gill Leonard, Neil Gray and Ngaire Harris (all founding members of the Trust) along with Lee Carter, Derek Aislabie, Peter Schouten and Hayley Green who contribute a diverse range of skills. Trust Chairperson, Ciarán Tully, is clear on the value of the Trust to college and community: "The Trust is here to support the students of Hauraki Plains College. When we help the students, there is a flow on effect. Parents want to send their children to Hauraki Plains College. More students means more teachers, which brings more people to Ngatea and more investment in our local businesses and community. Everyone benefits".



Ciarán Tully

Principal's Comment



A lack of boundaries invites a lack of respect.

Holding young people to firm boundaries and high expectations are critical to an effective and safe learning environment where teaching and learning is honoured and where it is seen as cool to achieve.

Showing respect and consideration towards others, appreciating that

manners matter, that hard work is the key to success, that quality work is commendable, that rights carry responsibilities and actions have consequences are all "old school" but as important in the 21st century as ever. Indeed the cry of employers and community organisations is that we need more than ever those "old school" values and less of a sense of entitlement and it's all about me attitude.

It's an interesting thing that students interpret high expectations and standards as a demonstration that we care about them and

their learning. Young people thrive in an environment where they receive both 'hard caring' in the form of high expectations and non-negotiable standards and 'soft caring' in the form of positive relationships and support to become their best selves.

The Hauraki Way establishes a small number of not negotiables, which 'hold the line' in terms of standards and expectations. Under the Hauraki Way, manners matter and how we wear our uniform is important since teenagers tend to behave the way they are dressed. At times aspects of the Hauraki Way may appear to be black and white, but if we are flakey on our boundaries, then little by little the ground is lost and the standard we walk past, becomes the standard we accept.

The proposed harder line on cell phones at school is one example where the boundary lines have become blurred and so we need to clearly re-mark the boundary so to speak.

Ngaire Harris
Principal

Board of Trustees Update



This month's community newsletter is bigger than normal due to the Board taking the opportunity to use this medium to get out to our greater community three important issues that have come before us.

Under the Education Act 2020, school boards are required to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty) in its policies. Over the past few weeks, the Board has engaged in a series of workshops with a

cultural advisor as we worked towards a Statement of Intent as a basis of decision making moving forward.

The draft Statement of Intent is included in this newsletter as well as our draft position on how the college would like to incorporate Taonga, in the form of a traditional neck pendant, Tā Moko (using tattoo to express cultural heritage and identity) as well as the wearing of Korowai (as a mantle of prestige and honour), from the unique position that Māori are afforded under the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi). These are included under the revised Hauraki Way document.

The second issue we have been considering is our current and proposed position on Cellphones at school. The current policy has been flouted by many of our students and staff are dealing constantly with the disruption to learning that is caused when students keep checking their phones and texting. Many schools are grappling with the same issues and some have taken the stance to ban cell phones. We are looking at implementing the same stance in Term 4 (see page 8 of this Newsletter).

The third issue that we are using this forum to communicate with our school community on is that of the ongoing inappropriate use and vandalism and graffiti issues in the main toilet block. Despite the fact that extra staff have been employed and senior students doing duty, this approach is not sustainable. We are proposing for closer surveillance within the toilet blocks. The proposed surveillance will not breach privacy and will only allow staff to see who is entering and leaving.

For any feedback on these issues, please email studentservices@haurakiplains.school.nz

Andrew Gordon
BOT Chair

Out of Zone Information

Out of Zone Ballot for 2022 closes 1 September 2021 at Midday.

Enrolment forms are available on our website www.haurakiplains.school.nz

Contact Mary Aislabie: marya@haurakiplains.school.nz for further information.

Statement of Intent

More
Than
A School



Hauraki Plains College

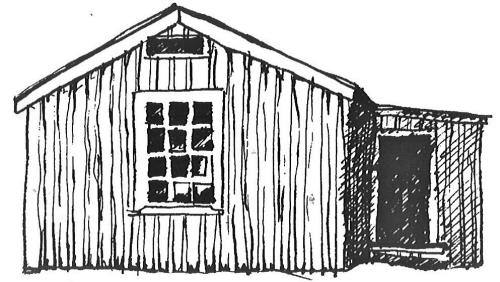
Our Purpose

Our core purpose is to educate our rangatahi so they can take their place as contributing citizens of their communities, of Aotearoa New Zealand and of the world. Our mission is to be more than a school in providing extensive learning opportunities and experiences outside the classroom; in delivering excellent and equitable outcomes and in supporting the holistic wellbeing of all students. We endeavour to shape young people who are learning ready, life ready, work ready and world ready.



Our Place; Our Stories

Our school acknowledges a heritage grounded in two founding stories - that of Hako, the ancestor of the Tangata Whenua, who travelled up the Piako River on a whale and that of the European pioneers who transformed the Piako swampland into the Hauraki Plains. We first began as Orchard School when in 1912, fifteen young pupils,



met for three days each week in a borrowed Lands and Survey Hut. Two years later, the first classroom, nicknamed 'The Dog Box' was built. From 1918 further class rooms were built and a secondary department was established and Orchard School was renamed Ngatea District High School. When Ngatea Primary was opened, the intention was to close down the school, but through the determination and resilience of local families, Hauraki Plains College was officially established in 1963. From these humble beginnings, our school has continued to grow and serve the community of the wider Hauraki area.

Our Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi)

Under Te Tiriti we have a joint responsibility with iwi, hapū, and whānau to help ensure that HPC supports and sustains Te Ao Māori (Māori worldview). We appreciate that Māori have rights as Tangata Whenua (indigenous peoples) of Aotearoa New Zealand. We understand under Te Tiriti, the significance of Taonga (treasured possession) which includes Te Reo (Māori language), Tikanga (ways of doing things) and excellent and equitable outcomes for all ākonga (learners).

Our Guiding Principles

- 'Each for All' (Quisque Pro Omnibus) is our school motto. While we seek the best outcomes for each individual, this is never more important than our collective identity and purpose.
- The **Hauraki Way** is how we do things around here and establishes the expectations and standards for our school.
- The Hauraki Way is upheld by our core **values**:
 - Rangatiratanga: We encourage our students to be their best selves and do their best work.
 - Manaakitanga: We treat each other with respect and kindness, upholding the mana of others.
 - Kaitiakitanga: We take our place as guardians of our heritage and future; in upholding the mana of HPC; in taking care of our environment and leaving a legacy for the future.
- These guiding principles will inform how we make decisions now and moving forward.



Whakatauki

"Whaia e koe ki te iti kahurangi;
ki te tuohu koe, me maunga teitei"

The Hauraki Way

The Hauraki Way expresses the standards of behaviour we have for all students. We believe that young people learn best in an environment where there are non-negotiable boundaries and high expectations with a no blame, no shame, no excuses approach.

The Hauraki Way applies to all times; this includes any time or place when a student of HPC can be identified as such either through uniform, membership of a school team or group or any other means. It includes from the time of leaving until returning home and all other occasions which are school activities or events.

Hands off People and Property: our *Safety standard*

Except in legitimate sporting activities, any kind of physical contact including pushing and fighting, bullying, gang style handshakes, hugging, theft of property and touching are off limits.

Allow Learning to Happen: our *Classroom standard*

It is not ok to disrupt the learning of others. Students who are disruptive will be withdrawn from class in the first instance and a behaviour management plan implemented.

Use Appropriate Language: our *Respect standard*

Swearing, abusive and inappropriate talk is unacceptable, either when communicating with fellow students, to staff, on the sports field, on the street or any other occasion within the hearing of members of the wider school community.

Remember your Manners and RMK: our *Character standard*

An attitude of respect for self and others is a measure of good character. Manners open doors that even the best education cannot.

Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs (and any other illegal behaviours) are not on: our *Legal standard*

We have zero tolerance to any behaviours that are illegal and police will be informed. This includes, but not limited to: alcohol, smoking, drugs and vaping, theft, weapons and breaches of the Harmful Digital Communication Act.

Kee it kind. Kee it tidy. Kee it honest: our *Integrity standard*

If you can be anything, be kind; don't be mean. Be a tidy kiwi within our environment. Do the right thing, even if it is the hard thing. This includes academic honesty.

Instructions must be followed; adults are in charge: our *Authority standard*

Students are expected to follow the reasonable instructions of staff. This ensures an orderly and respectful environment for learning.

Wear our Uniform with Pride: our *Identity standard*

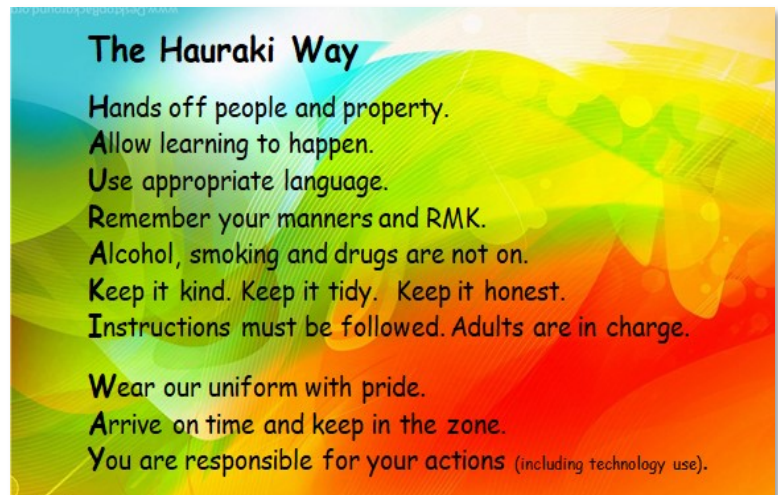
When it comes to uniform, we sweat the small stuff since uniform is a visual symbol of the collective pride and identity of our school.

Arrive on time and stay within school boundaries: our *Right Time and Place standard*

We expect students to be in the right place, at the right time with the right attitude.

You are responsible for your own actions: our *Accountability standard*

We believe that choices have consequences, and that students need to be held to account for inappropriate behaviours. This applies to all behaviours including use of digital technologies.



School Uniform



General Expectations: Wear our uniform with pride.

HPC expects students to maintain a high standard of dress and personal presentation at all times, including a clean, tidy and correct uniform as a condition of attendance which is agreed upon at enrolment.

Any variations to the uniform code must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The standard for clean, tidy and correct uniform, including hair and grooming, is determined by the Senior Leadership Team.

Girls' skirts must be mid-calf length i.e. midway between ankle and knee. Students will be required to adjust the hem or replace skirts which are shorter than this.

Students are encouraged to wear the uniform cap during the summer months. No other hats, sports hats or beanies are permitted and the college cap must be worn correctly.

The standard HPC jacket is the only jacket allowed. Passes will not be issued for any other jackets. For additional warmth in winter, it is recommended that all students wear extra layers of clothing; however, these must be white or black depending on the colour of the shirt/blouse and must not be visible.

During the summer months, all students wear the prescribed black Roman sandals as indicated by the school's online uniform provider. During winter, only black leather, low heel, standard lace up school shoes are accepted.

Photos of students who are not in correct uniform including sports uniforms will not be published or posted in any school communication.

Taonga, Tā Moko and Korowai

Tangata Whenua, that is rangatahi of Māori ancestry, are afforded the right under Te Tiriti to wear a Taonga of cultural significance in the form of a traditional Māori neck pendant with school uniform and visible Tā Moko.

The Taonga must be of greenstone or bone and may be worn tucked in close to the heart or on the outside lower than the vee of the shirt or jersey. Taonga must be tucked in or removed for health and safety reasons in PE, sports and workshop classes.

To protect the integrity of Taonga and Tā Moko, a register will be kept by the school and if needed, clarification will be sought by the designated te pouarahi (Māori leader).

A korowai of cultural significance may be worn at special formal occasions such as awards ceremonies, formal prize givings and graduation.

Other Items of Cultural, Spiritual or Sentimental Value and Jewellery

The only jewellery students may wear is one plain silver or gold stud in each ear. Nose or other facial studs are not permitted including clear studs and spacers.

Students (other than rangatahi of Māori ancestry) may wear a pendant if it has significant cultural, spiritual or sentimental value. This must be worn tucked inside the shirt and not visible. A register will be kept of pendants of cultural, spiritual or sentimental significance. Tattoos must be covered.

Badges earned at school or a school related event (RMK badges, Blues and Leadership badges) may be worn with school uniform.

Hair and Makeup

Natural is a key word when it comes to hair, makeup and fingernails.

Hair must be clean, neat and tidy and styled in a reasonably conventional manner including natural hair colourings. Hair must be kept out of students' eyes and long hair (i.e. over the eye brows or touching the collar) must be tied back at all times.

Girls are permitted to wear natural looking makeup only. Fingernails and eye lashes must also be of a natural look.

Boys must be clean shaven.

Number Ones (dress uniform) and Special Occasions

Our 'number ones' are our highest expression of our collective identity as a school and reserved for student leaders and sports teams.

Physical Education, Sports and Cultural Uniforms

The PE uniform consists of a Hapu shirt and Black HPC shorts.

All Sports and Cultural uniforms must be approved by the Board or the Sports Executive on behalf of the Board.

The Sports Executive determines the uniform to be worn before, during and after sporting events.

Out and About

Inter- River Netball



Year 9 Inter-River Netball Competition - Winners 9ME, Runners up 9RO.

Food Technology



Year 10 Food Tech students cooking Spaghetti Bolognese

Around School



Year 12 Future Leaders on duty at break time



Year 9 Fergus Ball reading to his peers

Chainsaw Course



Learning how to use a chainsaw - Primary Industry students at work

Furniture Making



Year 11's making Bedside Cabinets

Impact Youth Group



Impact Youth Group run by ex-student Levi Dyer

Proposed change to Cellphone Use at HPC

The why behind the change

- There are multiple perspectives on the value of smartphones in schools. Some believe the smartphone is a portable learning device extending educational opportunities and that we need to teach students to manage their devices. Others believe phones are a constant source of distraction and online bullying behaviours.
- We have noticed an increase in students needing to constantly check their phones during class and break times including in the toilets.
- Cellphones are addictive as students and adults look for the dopamine fix from social media. Scrolling through Instagram spikes dopamine levels, the 'feel good' hormone. Comments, likes, shares, and other forms of interactions, create a zone in which the brain can readily get a hit of dopamine with each passing second.
- Students are increasingly aggressive towards teachers when asked to hand over their cellphones.
- Approximately 40% of all disciplinary issues occurring at HPC are related to inappropriate cellphone use.
- A UK study found that removing smartphones from school increases students' performance by 6.4% or by 14% for at risk, disadvantaged students (Beland & Murphy, 2015)

- Cyber-bullying and increased levels of anxiety, depression and self-harm are at epidemic levels for schools; cellphones are a key contributing factor in these issues.

The Proposed Change

- The Board is proposing that cellphones are not permitted at school.
- If parents / whānau believe the student must have a cell phone (e.g. for contacting after school), the phone must be handed in to the Student Centre prior to River Time and collected at the end of the school day.
- Parents are able to phone the school office if contact with the student is needed during the school day. Similarly, students are welcome to make calls from the main office or Student Centre if needing to contact parents.



Whaea Berta off to Nationals



It will be a proud moment for Berta Makiha when she takes her place as Touch Judge at the New Zealand Secondary School Rugby League National Competition.

Whaea Berta has been involved with Rugby League for thirty years, first with the Ngongotaha Club and then after moving to Hauraki, with the Kerepehi Piako Eels and the Ngatea Knights. During this time, Berta moved from coaching, to managing to refereeing, which involves travelling most weekends. Berta has also remained involved with the Hauraki District where currently there are six rugby league clubs.

At nationals, Whaea Berta will be Touch Judge and will be her first Nationals event. "I'm so stoked to be a part of this. There is a

selection process so a huge and amazing opportunity. From nationals, I will travel to Whanganui and then Tuakana for regional events. This is my journey with the game I love and respect."

Berta has been Community Service Supervisor for a number of years. Instead of giving students a stand down when they are in serious trouble which often means a day off at home, students give back to the school in the form of community service. Sweeping paths, tidying up areas and washing down buildings are just some of the jobs that students on Community Service undertake.

"It's about teaching the kids to make right decisions, making good choices and owning your mistakes. I tell them that their parents are paying good money for their education and they need to make good of it; I also say that if they are not five minutes early to class, then they are late." Berta likes to build up a good relationship with students and says sometimes she has to go to the hard places with them. "I can only hope I am making a difference," she says.

Gateway Experiences

"Every Monday I go to Gateway. Gateway is designed to support school students transitioning into the workforce by offering them workplace learning. For my Gateway I go to 'A Fun Place To Be' which is a daycare in Thames.

While I am at Gateway I help supervise the children. Some examples of what I do is setting up fun activities for them to do, helping with morning tea and lunch by getting their lunch boxes out and drink bottles filled with water. I also offer the kids encouragement when they are finding a task difficult and assistance if they need it. I help with cleaning up after kids. Some days I help with the under twos by supervising their activities.

The Gateway Programme has helped me gain a lot of experience and it has given me a good insight to what working in a daycare is like. My future career plans are to study through New Zealand Tertiary College while most likely doing a work placement at a daycare and while having a work placement I will be studying towards my Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)."

Jessica Brown (Year 12 Student)



Coaches Giving Back and Playing it Forward



Karma Watson

The Thames Valley Netball Saturday competition saw both 9A and 10A teams in the finals. Both teams are coached by HPC past pupils: 9A by Karma Watson (co-coached by Camise Watson and 10A by Tracy Nicholson.

Karma Watson attended HPC from 2005 to 2008 and has very definite ideas about the value of netball. "I played and loved everything about netball throughout primary school but at college I trialled as a year 9 and not many of my friends trialled. I was very body conscious so after trials I never wanted to play which I regret very much. I try to encourage young girls now that I understand a bit more, just letting them know it's ok, just go for it and love it and have fun as well as trying your best at all times in anything you give a go. If you enjoy something don't give it up for nothing or no one. I love every bit of coaching, getting to know each girl's personality, finding their strengths and working on weaknesses and seeing them striving to succeed and building

their confidence. As coaches we are very proud of the whole team. The coaching courses provided by Dana Thompson (also a past HPC pupil) have been a great help."

Netball 10A Coach Tracy Nicholson (nee Leonard) attended HPC from 1992 to 1995, played netball during her college years and then went on to make the Counties Under 19 team. As a coach, Tracy loves seeing improvements in each player. "The people that associate themselves with sport are awesome people. I love the cuddles and chats from past players, but ultimately I do it for my children and feels so lucky to be able to be involved.

Tracy has some good advice for up and coming netballers: "Just remember the basics; practise them well, deliver them with honesty, integrity and respect and you will go a long way, not only in sport but in life! Enjoy what you do and surround yourself with positivity. Appreciate the opportunities that come your way."

Thanks to both Karma and Tracy for giving back to your old school.



Tracy Nicholson



Camise Watson

Year 13 Ski Trip

It was out of school and into cars for a group of Year 13s off to the Whakapapa Skifield. When we finally arrived, the snow was thick and the tarmac icy. After the long, steep and cold hike up to the Waikato Ski Club Lodge, we showered, got rugged up and sat by the fire for a night of card games and fun.

The following day we woke up to incredible views and headed for our ski lessons at 9.

After a few falls and definitely not enough learning, a small group of us decided that we had outgrown the beginners pace and continued on to Happy Valley. When asked by Oliver, Jason, Lewis and Tegan if we were up for heading up the Sky Waka for ski-ing higher up, Jorjja and I didn't hesitate, thinking we would be fine. Safe to say, we were definitely wrong. After falling off the chair lift from 2 meters up and falling, what felt like another thousand times, it was lunchtime and then time to head back down the mountain.

The next day, thick clouds came rolling in; while none of the other ski fields were open, we managed a few hours of ski-ing in Happy Valley. Before we knew it, it was time for the long drive back to Ngatea.

Thanks to Mrs Merriman in particular as well as her sons; Mrs Sloane, Mrs Gordon, Mr Aranyos, Mr Graham, Jason Barker and Tegan Clark, who were superb and volunteered their time to drive us, help us cook and teach us to ski. It was a fantastic experience and it definitely sparked a passion for a lot of us. I definitely recommend it to everyone to have the opportunity to go next year.

Molly Smith Soppet



Daniella at Entrepreneurs in Action



Daniella in action at EIA in Wellington

Daniella van Vliet was recently selected for a four day Entrepreneurs in Action (EiA) event in Wellington run by the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES). Attending the event, were 78 students from all over New Zealand who are passionate about business and entrepreneurship.

Daniella recalls her experience: "In teams of six, we came up with business ideas to complete challenges based around current problems in New Zealand. We had to create a hypothetical business, write a business plan and then pitch our ideas to a panel of judges. By the end of the weekend I was absolutely exhausted but it was 100% worth it. I have learnt so much from the experience both in business knowledge and working in a team to achieve a common goal.

I have been interested in business for a while and run my own small candle business alongside Business Studies at school. Next year I am doing a double major at university in creative media and marketing and would one day like to run my own creative business."

Sports @ HPC

Clay Target Shooting

Inter-Collegiate Shoot Putaruru

1st girls overall Ayisha Hull

2nd girls teams Ashling Welch and Ayisha Hull

3rd girls teams Kate Bond and Amelia Sanson



Kate Bond



L-R: Ashling Welch and Ayisha Hull

Netball

Congratulations to College A Netball who won their final game in the Counties Manukau SS Premier Competition, finishing 3rd place in Section 2. Well done girls!!



Te Kuiti Sports Exchange

Well done to all first teams who took part in our annual Sports Exchange against Te Kuiti High School. This year saw the exchange in its 58th year of friendship and competition. Big thanks to all coaches, managers and officials who helped run the day; much appreciated. HPC won the Netball, Mixed Hockey and Girls Football, with Te Kuiti winning the Boys Basketball and Rugby.

Results:

1st XV
TK Won 27-22

Girls Football
HPC won 3-1

Mixed Hockey
HPC won 5-0

Basketball Boys
TK won 93-62

Netball
HPC won 43-18



Badminton



Senior Badminton Team L-R: Back: Ryan Courtney, Reefer Benny, Leo Tansey, Mitchell Williams.
Front: Nicholas Hutt, Nihindu Wickramathunga, Hunter Wilson, Cooper Green.



Senior Girls Doubles
Rebecca Adams and
Sophie Pepper



Junior Boys Badminton Team L-R:
Brandon Fernandes, Bradley Fernandes, Daniel McLaren, Gursimran Singh.



Junior Girls Badminton Team L-R: Ashlee Thompson, Emily Logan, Ruby Green, Erin Aralar.

Well done to all students who competed at the Thames Valley SS Senior and Junior Badminton Competitions recently, the results are:

TVSS Junior Champs:

Boys Doubles 3rd place Bradley Fernandes and Brandon Fernandes
Girls Doubles 3rd place Ashlee Thompson and Emily Logan

TVSS Senior Champs:

Girls Singles 2nd place Sophie Pepper
3rd place Rebecca Adams

Boys Singles 1st place Mitchell Williams
2nd place Ryan Courtney
3rd place Hunter Crowe

Girls Doubles 2nd place Sophie Pepper and Rebecca Adams
3rd place Jemma Sloane and Elle Moore

Boys Doubles 1st place Cooper Green and Nicholas Hutt
2nd place Hunter Crowe and Nihindu Wickramathunga
3rd place Mitchell Williams and Leo Tansey

Moto-X



Congratulations to the MotoX Team who won the 'King of the Schools' Series, racing against 67 schools. Their latest team results are:

Ruakaka SS Comp:
1st Team overall

Taupo SS National Championships:
2nd Team overall



Farewell Donald Horton Swales



Donald Horton Swales (Don) was born 30th September, 1940 in Auckland, the youngest son of Mona (nee Smith) and Reginald Horace Swales.

He attended St Heliers Bay Primary school in Auckland and then Auckland Boys Grammar School. Don didn't consider himself academic and left school at the earliest opportunity. He was a born left hander and forced to write with his right hand that attributed to his frustration. That aside, Don had a huge appetite for knowledge, history, art work and

poetry. He learnt many Banjo Patterson poems off by heart that he would often recite one out of the blue.

When first leaving school, he went on to work as a clerk for the Auckland Traffic Department during the day and took a job on the Auckland Wharf at night as a "Seagull" to save money and already working toward his goal of owning a farm firmly in his sight.

Don met Francine O'Rielly in 1957. They married on 22nd April, 1961 at All Saints Church in Ponsonby, Auckland. As both Don's parents had passed and as he was not yet 21 years of age, his older sister Estelle had to consent to the wedding.

They had three children: Craig, Brett and Michele and later he became the proud grand dad of five grand children.

Don & Francie bought a small number of cows and took a share milking job in Maramarua. From there they bought a dairy farm on Front Miranda Road, Waitakaruru in the late 60's. In the early 70's they bought a "run-off" in Kaiaua where Don built a new house which he moved to in 1982.

Don was widowed in 1976 (age 35) and did not remarry. Don juggled home-life, the breaking in of scrub in to pasture on the Kaiaua farm and running the dairy farm in Waitakaruru. According to his three grown up children, as kids they would judge it a good day when they didn't have corn-flakes for dinner or get their clothes from the dirty laundry pile.

As a person he was incredibly strong, resilient, hard working and determined. He would say he came from the school of hard knocks, having lost his own mother at 13 years of age and then his father just before his wedding at 21 years. He was always a gentleman who believed in tradition, values, and etiquette.

On the sporting side, Don proved to be multi-talented; he was a strong short distance sprinter, did the rings in gymnastics, won medals in boxing (even as an untrained boxer) and joined the West End Rowing

Club in his late teens. His crew for West End Rowing Club won the Maiden Eight in the NZ Championship.

Don has been a highly active community contributor holding past positions in the following organisations: Kaiaua Fire Brigade, Kaiaua Ratepayers Association; the Ngatea Pony Club; Waitakaruru Scouts. He was a Justice of the Peace, served on the Franklin District Council; Auckland Regional Council and the Hauraki District Council. Don had so many interests even beyond his community work. He was known for his ability to chair a pretty good meeting; he was a very good dancer, enjoyed music, NZ paintings and reciting Banjo Paterson.

Don took a real interest in the development of the Hauraki Rowing Club from its establishment in 1974 and was both Patron and lifelong member of the Club. He was also one of only eight to be made a life member of Karapiro Rowing and also served on the committee for Rowing New Zealand.

Board Chair Andrew Gordon, vividly recalls Don's contribution to Hauraki rowers: "At Karapiro, he would always be watching the Hauraki crews, ready for a chat, sometimes giving some inspirational insights, or sometimes just a yarn about memories and funny moments from the past. Having him turn up at Maadi Cup was always appreciated, and his words to the kids were always encouraging and inspirational. He always made time to sit down and have a cuppa to catch up on what was happening."

Andrew recalls one time on the finish line at Karapiro. "We were watching one of our crew racing in a maadi final. On this one occasion we had a boat racing that was in a really close race. Our guy had an extremely strong finish and had rowed through the crews in to second place. Just as he got to the line he stopped. He got third. Don turned to me and with a straight face said, 'He's got to learn to row to the bloody hooter' and then smiled and chuckled as only he could."

You would have to say that Don himself rowed to the hooter. Farewell Don and thank you for what you have contributed to the community. Don passed away 2nd August 2021.



HPC Rowers form a guard of honour for Donald Horton Swales



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