

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

Key Dates

Tues 26 - Thurs 28 October
Practice Exams

Fri 29 October
Catch Up Day

Mon 1 Nov
Junior Reports issued

Thurs 11 Nov
Sports Prizegiving

Thurs 18 Nov
Academic Prizegiving

Tues 23 Nov
MOE Teacher Only Day

Weds 8 Dec
Big Day Out for Year 8's (TBC)

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

HPC Board Moves to Ban Cell Phones at School

The HPC Board has moved to change the cell phone at school policy to prevent students from carrying around cell phones at school from the start of the 2022 school year. The Board made the decision after researching the impact of cell phones on student learning and consultation with staff and parents / whānau.

Undoubtedly, there is much to gain from new technologies including extending learning opportunities, connectivity, and the use of, for example, single digital objects that combine sound, image, moving picture and text. At the same time, young people do not need constant access to computers and other devices to be 'ready for tomorrow.' Absolutely, they need to be taught how to use communication technologies, but the use of screens for low value learning robs young people of rich and challenging tasks that are best learned through real world experiences. A UK study found that removing smartphones from school increases students' performance by 6.4% and up to 14% for at risk, disadvantaged students (Beland & Murphy, 2015). This research suggests a strong correlation between results and the capacity to control screen time.

Communication technologies are not a neutral playing field and the businesses which have developed and marketed the many programmes and apps available through social media, have a vested interest in making sure young people in particular, are compelled, almost addictively, to use and return to these sites over and over again. Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok for example are pervasive; posting stories and images with views, comments and 'likes' provides instant feedback. This is a 21st century version of seeking approval in that every time a 'like' comes back, the user gets a small dopamine fix (the 'feel good' hormone).

"Farming the likes" and checking one's messages is both compelling and highly addictive to the point of being a significant distraction in the classroom. Employers too are reporting more young people unable to work without the need to constantly check their phones for messages. We are also noticing increasing levels of anti-social behaviours, aggressive responses when teachers ask students to hand cell phones over and incidents of online bullying and dramas that spill over into the school environment. Approximately half of all disciplinary issues at HPC are related to social media / cellphone use. The use of social media is also strongly linked to increasing levels of anxiety, depression and self-harm in young people.

The Board's revised stance on cellphones at school reflects a commitment to teach our young people to be discerning users and digital minimisers of technology, only encouraging use when it clearly adds value to learning and wellbeing. While the Board has determined that cellphones and similar communication devices such as IP Telephony are not permitted at school, if a parent wants their son or daughter to have a cell phone (e.g. for contacting after school), the phone is to be handed in to the Student Centre prior to the start of the school day and collected after school. 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 Student Centre if needing to contact parents.

Acknowledgements: David Gillespie (2019) *Teen Brain*; Perry Rush (2021) *President's Message* (NZPF).

Principal's Comment



"May you live in interesting times" is thought to be an old Chinese curse, that implies 'uninteresting times' of certainty and peace are more life-enhancing than when life throws curve balls or times of uncertainty.

If nothing else, the last few weeks and months have been 'interesting' if not down right challenging, uncertain and unpredictable. As the Auckland lockdown

has dragged on and the Kaiaua / Mangatangi (Upper Hauraki) drama unfolded, to be followed by the Waikato lockdown, at different times we have coped with both staff and students in Covid Alert Levels 2, 3 and 4 simultaneously. Often an announcement is made in the media, and immediately we have to get on with figuring out what the implications are in terms of onsite health and safety requirements, communication to our community, the rapid re-organisation of classes and changes to bus routes as best we can.

We have currently 131 students on the Auckland side of the border and another 40 in the Waikato area. From multiple perspectives, each day brings its new challenges. Students are missing the routines of the school day and the human connection that their friends and face to face teachers provide; senior students in particular have high stakes NCEA qualifications at risk. Parents are

anxious about their children's education and wellbeing as the lockdowns inevitably take their toll. Teachers are tasked with teaching students face to face and online simultaneously. Whether a student, parent or teacher, most are just doing the best they can and simply front footing the daily challenges. .

In communicating with a number of families, I have to commend particularly those students, who have been locked down on the Auckland side of the border for many weeks now, for their resilience and endurance as they are now heading into the third month of lockdown.

To their credit, most students, with family support, are doing remarkably well with getting on with their online learning. despite the challenges. No doubt they are also learning tremendous life skills such as coping with disappointment, seeking help when they need it and making realistic plans while focusing on achievable goals and maintaining a resilient stance in overcoming obstacles.

They say that sometimes simply showing up is a victory. Well done to those students who are simply showing up, making the most of it, doing their best, overcoming the tendency to give up, day after day, in what is proving to be a very interesting time.

Ngaire Harris
PRINCIPAL

Board of Trustees Update



The internal cogs of Hauraki Plains College continue to turn. End of year preparations are being planned for, but now with options A and B being considered, depending on our current pandemic environment.

We are extremely conscious that we have students who have not physically attended school for many weeks, and may not be able to for the foreseeable future. This is due to a mixture of both Government

directive and parent choice.

Within the Board of Trustees you can be assured that there are a variety of opinions as to the roll the school plays in the Governments drive to contain the pandemic as effectively as possible. We can spend hours reading emails and debating for or against getting vaccinated. At the end of the day a school has directives that it must follow firstly from the Ministry of Education which in any health related matters must comply with directives from the Ministry of Health.

We are conscious that we are a school environment with the education and wellbeing of all our children being our priority, and this will always be at the forefront of our decisions. The wellbeing and safety of our staff is also our responsibility so no decisions are ever taken lightly.

Later this term when the senior students go to study leave, we will be introducing our cell phone policy with the Year 9 and Year 10 students. The school will then roll out the policy to all students in the first term of 2022.

A school environment is governed by leading policies and procedures that the Board must consider when making any decisions. The Ministry have always given guidelines for the individual Boards to develop their own policies and procedures that suit their individual environment and circumstances.

With the amount of scrutiny that is now put on everything a Board or school does, it is only prudent that these documents should be regularly reviewed by a legal team that are able to consider in a professional manner the intent and possible ramifications, for educational purposes but also clarity and liability.

We have joined 1500 other schools that provides this service and all our policies are now available through SchoolDocs.

SchoolDocs

To access HPC policies and guidelines that are on the SchoolDocs site.

Go to <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Top right hand of website / search for your school.

Put in Hauraki Plains College.

Username: haurakiplains

Password: haurakidocs

Use the search bar at the top left of the site to find what you're looking for. Enter key words and the relevant pages will be listed.

Each term, a small number of online policy reviews are undertaken.

Andrew Gordon
BOT CHAIR

Masking Up Made Easier

The HPC MotoX team took the initiative in designing their own face covering in the form of a snood. They had 75 to sell with all proceeds going to NZ Breast Cancer.

As they have been so successful, these have been followed up with an HPC snood made for students and staff with the school logo. They are light and in a quick dry material that can be folded into multiple layers. There is no forgetting your mask, no more sore ears, no clogging up the dumps with disposable masks and as they stay around you neck and can be washed and dried quickly, are a hygienic way of overcoming the masking up problem.

HPC Snoods are available from The Hub for \$5.00.
MX Snoods are \$6.00.



Science Opportunity for Ryan



Well done to Ryan Courtney who has been selected as one of 56 students in the country to attend the Science Academy programme at Otago University next year. Ryan will be in his final year at HPC and the programme will give him the opportunity to work alongside, and be challenged by, leading scientists across a wide range of disciplines.

The programme is fully funded and includes two residential Science camps on the University of Otago campus, a summer Science camp in January and a winter Science camp in July.

"I am looking forward to meeting other students who have similar interests as me but especially expanding my learning in areas that I haven't had the opportunity to explore before. My career plans is to take an Engineering degree at Auckland University and, hopefully by using the skills that I would learn at these camps in Dunedin, I would be able to better the lives of others through my pathway in Engineering," said Ryan on his selection.

Young Entrepreneurs

A group of Year 13 Business Studies students have made the top 8 of 78 teams and over 400 students across the region, to be selected in the regional finals of the Young Enterprise challenge in November. The group of budding entrepreneurs designed a card made of recycled paper, with implanted seeds, which can be planted - the gift that keeps on growing.

At the finals, the team will present to a panel of business managers at the Wintec campus and will be judged on innovation, sustainability of the product, how successfully the business was run and delivery of the presentation.

The group are appreciative of the community support with many people purchasing online because of COVID restrictions. "This is the fourth year in a row that an HPC team has made it to finals," according to Business Studies teacher Mr John Tate. "It's a fun opportunity for the students and the opportunity to run their own business makes the learning real, relevant and hands on."



Gateway



Molly Smith-Soppet enjoying her Gateway experience with Purnell Law in Thames.



Marshall Peterson enjoying a Gateway placement at Linn Motors Paeroa. Marshall now has a full time employment position with Linn Motors.

Snow Douglas Trust Fund

T C (Snow) Douglas is a past pupil of Ngatea District High School, now Hauraki Plains College, who ensured funding was available for current students of Hauraki Plains College to assist with academic, sporting, cultural and service opportunities under the following criteria.

- Assistance to current students competing in academic, sporting and cultural events at International level.
- Reimbursement of part or full costs to students who have competed successfully ie gained placing's in academic, sporting and cultural events at national level.
- Assistance to current students for talent development opportunities; must be identified as having outstanding talent in a particular field of endeavour whether academic, sporting, cultural or service.

Students may collect application forms from the Student Centre. Applications close 15 November 2021.

Assistance to current students who are both deserving and excellent role models within the school to assist with general school costs. Please note that general school costs does not include bus travel to and from school but does include costs such as stationery, uniform, sports fees and costs.



Term 4 Prize Givings

Under Ministry advice, we will need to change the format of this year's prize givings under Alert Level 2. These will be held in the College Hall with just students who are receiving awards involved and staff. Each prize giving will be video-ed / live streamed for parents / whānau.

- 11 November 1:30pm - Sports Prize giving
- 18 November 1:30pm - Senior Academic Prize giving (Time TBC)
- 13 December 1:30pm - Junior Certificate Awards (Time TBC)
- 14 December 1:30pm - Junior Diploma Awards (Time TBC)

Mufti Day Fun

On Thursday 21 October we held a mufti day. Students were asked to come dressed up as something starting with the first letter of their name. Good to see the teachers joining in too. We raised \$900 For the Cancer Society.



Winner - Saige Syme the Seahorse



Sports @ HPC

Golfing Reps

Congratulations to Michael Ellis (*pictured top*), Eden Treanor (*middle*) and Ryan Courtney (*bottom*) who were selected to represent Waikato at Interprovincial Club Golf recently.

The Junior Club Boys and Girls Interprovincial tournaments are annually contested with the best junior club golfers around the country competing representing Northland, North Harbour, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Eastland, Manawatu / Whanganui, Canterbury, Otago, Taranaki and Wellington. Each team is made up of both Under 19 and Under 16 players, one of which is a travelling reserve. The teams face off over four days in a match play format to decide an overall winner.

Michael Ellis started playing golf as a youngster with a golf course, the Lakes Resort course at Pauanui, in his back yard. With a current handicap of just under 2, Michael has been selected for the Waikato team for the past three years. His team was sitting at the top of his pool with one more round against Otago when the competition was cancelled due to Waikato going into lockdown.

Eden Treanor has been playing at the Maramarua Golf Club for two years and competed for Waikato at Rotorua. The Waikato team came second to Wellington in the last hole of the competition.

Ryan Courtney has a handicap of 5 and plays at the Paeroa Golf Club where his father is green keeper. Ryan played for a mixed provincial team at the tournament after taking up the sport two years ago.

Hockey

Congratulations to the 1st XI Girls and Boys Hockey Teams for their placings in the Waikato Secondary Schools U18 B Grade Hockey Competitions. The Boys placed 2nd in the Boys Competition with the Girls finishing in 1st Place. Well done to both teams.

Basketball

Congratulations to the Senior Girls Basketball Team who finished Runner Up in the Thames Valley Senior Girls Basketball Competition. Well done girls.



Congratulations to **Noah Williams** (*left*) who has been invited to the Regional Basketball Selection Camp which looks to identify athletes for the NZ U15 Junior National team to compete in the 2022 U15 FIBA Oceania Championships.



Congratulations to **Ashling Welch** who competed successfully in the South Island Southern Zone Club and South Island Clay Target Club Shooting Champs in Wanaka recently.

Ashling came home with a number of first and second placings in the Juniors, Ladies and B grade competitions. Right on target, Ashling.

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Hauraki Plains College

Applications are now open for
2022

COACHES and MANAGERS
for the following Sporting Codes:

Touch, Cricket,
Rugby, Football, Hockey
Basketball & Netball

Please contact:

sport@haurakiplains.school.nz

for an application form.

Applications close 30th November 2021

Novice Camp for Rowers

The first week of the term break saw 47 students heading for Lake Mangakino to give rowing a go. Most of the students were new to the sport, and were inducted to rowing by a team of coaches and more experienced rowers.

"While it was hard to get some of the basics sorted, the camp was fun and in between rowing, there were plenty of other things to keep us busy," commented Year 9 student Jayden Woods. Fellow Year 9 rower Ethan Harrison agreed: "The coaches and senior rowers were great and we are really looking forward to after school trainings and getting underway with the season."



The Ballot System: How does it work?

An Enrolment Scheme is a means of limiting the roll to prevent overcrowding at a school and enables the Ministry of Education to make the best use of the current accommodation at schools in the surrounding area.

Each enrolment scheme must contain a home zone with clearly defined boundaries. Children who live in the school's area (the zone) are guaranteed a place at their local school. Each year, the Board determines the number of places it can offer keeping in mind how many students who can be accommodated within facility space and the need to offer as many opportunities we can in terms of subjects and co-curricular activities. If the school has extra places, children who live outside the zone can apply for those places.

Out of zone applications are determined by a ballot which is supervised by a Justice of the Peace and all students have an equal chance of being accepted at the school. There are however a number of priorities determined by the Education Act 2020 for selecting out of zone students. Boards cannot set their own priorities.

- First priority is given to students who have been accepted for enrolment in a special programme run by the school (does not apply to HPC)
- Second priority will be given to applicants who are siblings of current students.
- Third priority will be given to applicants who are siblings of former students.
- Fourth priority will be given to applicants who are children of former students.
- Fifth priority will be given to applicants who are either children of board employees or children of board members.
- Sixth priority will be given to all other applicants.

Students who are not successful in the ballot are put onto a waiting list. There are currently 32 students on the waiting list for Year 9 2022.

Music Manuscript Tells a Family Story

Family heritage treasures connects us to our past, grounds us in the present and provides a sense of identity and belonging for future generations. Whether a well worn piece of furniture or a toy from another generation, these objects hold important connections and family stories.

The music theory book pictured belonged to Edward Sherrock, great great grandfather of Neville Sherrock. Edward Sherrock and his wife Margaret arrived in Wellington in January 1874. They left Londonderry where he had been stationed with the Londonderry Militia in the sailing ship Salisbury with their four children Edward, Louisa, Nakes and John. Their youngest child John took ill on the voyage. On their arrival at the Wellington Heads a terrific storm blew up and the captain hastily took his ship out to the open sea, returning to Wellington a week later. After arriving in Wellington, the family went across to Blenheim where they took up land at the Elevation where they farmed for some years and where two more children were born to the family.

Mr Sherrock was born on the Indian Frontier and was a veteran of the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. Later he was stationed with the 1st Prince of Wales Own Regiment in South Africa. Visiting England he went across to Ireland where he met and married Miss Margaret Erskine, of Mt Stewart, Belfast.

Edward Sherrock was a talented musician and could play any instrument, writing his own manuscripts, some of which were written while he was stationed with the Madras Fusiliers. The music manuscript pictured, which has been passed down through the Sherrock generations to Neville, was one such manuscript written for the cornet.

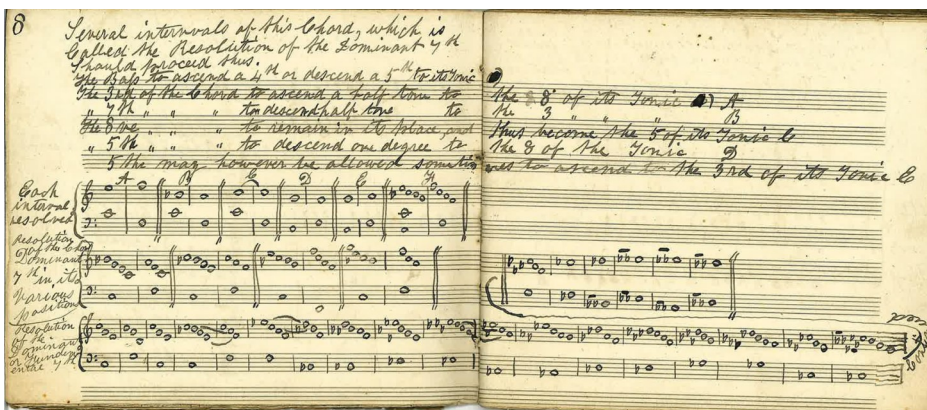
According to an obituary written years later, "Mr and Mrs Sherrock both possessed fine qualities of character and courage and were always ardent supporters of the Anglican faith. These qualities of faith, character and courage fitted them for the rigours and hardships which they encountered in the early days of settlement in the new country." After Edward Sherrock died, the family moved to Foxton where they lived for a short time in the 1890s finally settling in the Palmerston North district.

Several generations later, Neville's father Lou Sherrock inherited Edward's music genes and used to play the trumpet for the local brass band and orchestra. Neville also recalls his father playing the Last Post at Anzac Day services in Maramarua, Kaiaua and Mercer.

Lou's wife Mary recalls their early days of their marriage: "We had no money, we had to get our furniture on time payment, and that was the first time I had ever had to get anything on time payment."

The first ten years of Lou and Mary Sherrock's married life was spent in the national park where four of their five children were born. Lou then worked at the Maramarua Mill for 20 years and retired from a managerial position in 1974.

Neville and his three sisters and one brother all went to Maramarua District High School. Neville left MDHS to work for the local mill. Neville's children all came to Hauraki Plains College and his grandson Rikki also attended.



A page from Edward Sherrock's music manuscript



Neville Sherrock's parents Lou and Mary



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