

Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



2022 Student Leaders

Term 4 2021 saw a significant number of students applying for leadership roles for the following year. As well as a written application, a short listed group also spoke to the junior school on the topic of “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” before being interviewed by a team of senior staff. Some excerpts from their speeches:

Aidan Craggs (Head Boy)

With the good, will sometimes come the bad leadership experiences. Following on from being named 1st XV captain this year, came one of the low points of leading the team. After coming agonisingly close to winning our semi-final but falling short, I had to put aside my own disappointment and remain positive to help build up the other team members who were gutted at the loss. I had to give a speech, be gracious in defeat, and congratulate our opponents on their win. But I found that by remaining positive and supporting others, I was able to quickly overcome my own disappointment. My second leadership lesson is that during the ‘bad’ times, put others first, and most times, things will work out for the best.



Brooke McTaggart (Head Girl)

The good, bad and the ugly thing; it is in all of us, follows us around like a shadow, hiding and pops up now and then. The good part is the beautiful bit, it makes people laugh, feel included and belong, it gives confidence and fun, it has the ability to make us sing inside. But what about the ugly and the bad.



What about them? We see examples of these in everyday life, on television, sometimes on the sports field and even in parliament... So what about the ugly thing... it's out there. Debate is healthy, it allows ideas to be expressed, beliefs to be explored and talked about. That's what we do in a free country, we talk about things, but when debates become personal and heated, now that's ugly AND not helpful.

If the ugly can be removed then the bad cannot survive. By bad, I mean that permanent damage to friendships, family relationships, employment and social contact through sport.

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

Fri 25 March

Progress Reports issued

Fri 8 April

Mufti Day - Shave for a Cure

Weds 13 April

Waiuku Exchange
(to be decided if going ahead)

Thurs 14 April

End of Term One

Mon 2 May

Start of Term Two

Mon 9 May

MOE Teacher Only Day

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

2022 Student Leaders



Hunter Crowe (Deputy Head Boy and Sports Leader)

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly... that's just called the journey of life.

For me personally, being able to push through the tough scenarios to succeed during ugly times shows a true test of character. You can accept black and white where times are either really great or completely the opposite but being able to work hard and stay determined for something that becomes ugly gives a proper taste of success. What I think is crucial about the good, the bad and the ugly circumstances is that we need to accept they are just the reality of life in general and it is how we deal with what is presented to us that defines us.

I know myself from sport, especially cricket that I am going to have those days where I can't get anything to go my way and I feel deflated. But I know the reason why I play the game. It's the continuity of team culture, the moments of triumph, the life-lasting relationships which keep me going. I know if I work hard and keep my goals set high the good times will be just around the corner. It was Nelson Mandela who said, "Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."



Niamh Hill (Deputy Head Girl and Environmental Leader)

Even in bad and ugly times there is always some good. You'll never be a perfect leader, someone will always disagree and there will always be backlash. World leaders have so much pressure on their shoulders; of course not everyone will agree to the same things. Leadership is about listening to others, focusing on the good, making compromises but also staying true to your values.

For all of us in this room, these are our RMK values. Rangatiratanga, Manaakitanga and Kaitiakitanga.

Being a Head Student isn't the easiest job and I understand that. Not everyone is going to be pleased with everything the Student Leadership Team is going to say and do, but our job as leaders is to overcome this and do what we believe is best. As long as we can stay true to our RMK values, not get caught up on the bad or ugly, and do what's best for our school as a whole, things will always come out the best they can. It means accepting the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Principal's Comment



It has already been an interesting start to the school year with the Omicron virus taking a toll as students and staff are either unwell with COVID or are isolating as a household contact. Despite this, so far, we have been able to keep students in learning either at school or from home. Face masks, outdoor assemblies and daily updates on COVID numbers are simply part of the daily routine and school environment.

With the never ending and rapid stream of COVID rule changes, it is challenging to keep one's eye on our core business teaching and learning and to be strategic in this space. Our current Strategic Plan involves three main goals:

- Goal 1: Engage Students in Work that Matters
- Goal 2: Support students to navigate purposeful pathways
- Goal 3: Develop positive community partnerships

Under teaching and learning (Goal 1), we have a major focus on literacy and numeracy development for Years 9 to 11. Literacy and numeracy (reading, writing and maths) are important foundational skills that ensure success across other learning areas, but also importantly in life and work. Literacy and numeracy skills underpin workforce participation, productivity and the broader economy, and can also impact on social and health outcomes. Individuals without these skills are at risk of not being able to participate in the workforce or engage fully in social and civic life.

The national focus on literacy and numeracy reflects the current concern that across Aotearoa New Zealand, research indicates that up to 40% of students even with NCEA Level 2, may not have the literacy and numeracy skills to successfully navigate an information-rich world. New literacy and numeracy standards will be introduced from 2023, which will be a co-requisite to the NCEA qualification. This means students will need to pass the literacy and numeracy standards in order to receive the formal NCEA award. Under Goal 1 to engage students in work that matters, staff are working hard to understand and implement teaching strategies across all learning areas to ensure that students are ready for this important change to NCEA qualifications. Further information is available from <https://ncea.education.govt.nz/understanding-how-ncea-requirements-are-changing>

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INSIGHT LEGAL

2022 Student Leaders



Sean Ea (Deputy Head Boy and Academic Leader)

But let's face it, the journey of life is not as simple, or as straightforward as we would hope it to be. We are not always in control of what happens around us. Sometimes life can feel harsh or unfair, and situations can turn ugly, fast, without notice. That's when we start to ask ourselves, why? Why are we doing this?? Why should we keep on going? A lot of times we will leave or quit if things start to get too hard or too complicated. We don't have a reason to continue. We don't have a "why".

But when an overarching "why" develops in our lives, an objective we have set in our minds, we start to accept the challenges (the bad and the ugly) we are faced with. We will work hard to push through with all our strength, to reach that end goal, believing that all of our sacrifices will be worth it in the end. And this is all to do with our purpose, our Rangaratanga, our "why".



Molly Maitland (Deputy Head Girl and Interhapu Leader)

My three core values are hard work, kindness and gratitude. I believe that your life is as good as your mindset. You think, "ugh I hate school", then you're going to hate school. You think "I wish I had a TV in my room then maybe I will be happy; you won't be happy until you get a TV in your room. You'll simply never have enough. Be grateful for what you have; of course, we could always have more and more and more but you could also always have less. We woke up today. Let's start by being grateful for that for some weren't as lucky. Life is as good, bad or as ugly as your mindset.

What is the good, the bad and the ugly? This to me comes in many forms, and we all have a different perspective depending on our position in life. On different scales, for me a bad time could look like getting a Merit instead of the Excellence that I want, however for my Great Grandfather it was seeing the bad and ugly in front of his eyes as he fought in the trenches of WW2. Even before his passing, he struggled to talk about all the bad and ugly times he faced; rather his experiences taught him to adjust his mindset to see the good, for that was most important.

Board of Trustees Update



This being the first Community Newsletter for 2022, I'd like to welcome all new staff, students and families to Hauraki Plains College.

I'd like to thank Ngaire for setting the school up and dealing with

the ever-changing landscape the education sector has had to deal with for the start of 2022 and acknowledge that she and the Board have tried our best to operate within the ever-changing rules.

The Board received back our annual accounts from the auditors. These show the school to be managing its finances well and in a sound financial position.

Thank you to the Haurakian Charitable Trust for providing funding to upgrade rooms in the lodge which has allowed us to tidy up the last of the learning space in this area.

We have been given the go ahead for the A Block (Mangatarata) to be upgraded and this is scheduled to start in the April school holidays.

As from the start of the year we have introduced the "no Cellphone policy" and it is working well.

It is a pity to report that a few boys have decided to take it upon themselves to vandalise their toilet block so badly that we had to shut it down and bring in porta loos for the boys to use. With current delays on products, it may be some time before we can address this issue.

It is pleasing that the Ministry of Health rules have been altered allowing all children to now participate in sports regardless of their vaccination status.

This year the triennial school board elections will take place between the 5th and 23rd September.

Due to the cycle of the families having their last children leaving school, there will be a full stepping aside of the current parent representatives. I would like to encourage you to think about the skills you may have that you can utilise as a Board member. If you are interested and would like more information there is a link below to an overview titled 'A parents guide to the role of the Board of Trustees'. <https://www.nzsta.org.nz/assets/Information-for-parents/A-parents-guide-to-the-role-of-the-board-of-trustees.compressed.pdf>

If you are interested I would invite you to come along to any of our monthly board meetings which are held on the last Thursday of the month at the school hub at 5.30pm.

Andrew Gordon
BOARD CHAIR

A warm welcome to new staff to HPC.

Kyle Backhouse-Smith (Curriculum Leader Technology) comes from Ashburton College and has a back ground in jewellery design and manufacturing. He is also experienced in Technology Hard Materials including automotive engineering and building.



Gemma Fisher (PE Teacher) is a past pupil and before heading overseas to work as a stewardess on super yachts, taught at several Primary Schools. She taught Physical Education at Thames High before returning to her former school at the beginning of this year.



Rachel Glass (Maths Teacher) has come to us after being a Pharmacist in Thames for the last 15 years. Her hobbies are tramping and reading.



Chris de Beer (Farm Tutor) originally came from South Africa with a background in farm management, as a trainer with the City Council of Pretoria and 10 years business experience before working locally as a contract 50 / 50 sharemilker.



Robyn de Lesseps (Teacher Aide) originally worked at the Auckland City Library before starting her career as a Primary teacher in South Auckland working with children with special learning needs. Before coming to Ngatea, she ran a bakery business in St Heliers, Auckland specialising in artisan breads and gourmet pies.

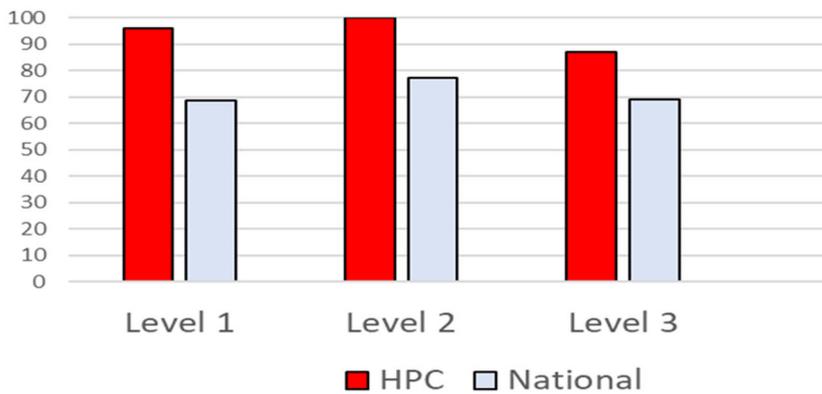


Quesera Matete (Teacher Aide) comes to HPC with a background in administration and hospitality. She is also a volunteer firefighter with the Ngatea Fire Brigade.



From the Classroom

NCEA OUTCOMES 2021



In spite of the challenges of last year's lockdowns, HPC students managed to hold their own in terms of achieving NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 qualifications. Red is HPC and Grey the national average.

Congratulations in particular to the following students who achieved **Excellence** endorsement despite the tougher rules around resubmissions in 2021 making it more challenging to attain an Excellence grade.

Level 1: Tayla Dougherty, Darcy Doyle, Katelyn Flocks, Cooper Green, Holly Harris, Anna Hart, Stella Heaven, Isabella Martin, Charlie O'Neill, Sophie Pepper, Ella Pirie, Emily Ryan, Elizabeth Schouten, Emma Thorburn, Holly Wilgermein, Summer Warmington.

Level 2: Xavier Anderson, Reema Arsilan, Ella Ashford-Beck, Ania Ballantine, Anthony Barker, Elaina Beagley,

Hannah Corbett, Ryan Courtney, Hunter Crowe, Alesha Ann De Penning, Sean Ea, Michael Ellis, Kayley Gibberd, Kezia Harrison, Ayisha Hull, Hayley Mackay, Rose Macready, Molly Maitland, Isabella McAuley, Maggie Morrison, Alysha Read, Emma Reid, Jared Sewell, Rowan Wathen.

Level 3: Lucy Barrier, Reefe Benny, Imogen Bjerring, Sarah Blake, Caitlin Burczak, Maggie Downes, Emma Gordon, Joseph Goudie, Morgan Harris, Ava Heaven, Nicholas Hutt, Irene Irvine, Charlotte Macreath, Bree McCowatt, Haley Munro, Alexandra Sorensen, Daniella van Vliet.

Jaymee Davies Speaks in Parliament

After winning a nation wide essay competition on the Holocaust, Year 11 student Jaymee Davies, was invited to speak at the United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day in Parliament in late January.

Jaymee spoke in front of a number of national figures including the Wellington Mayor Andy Foster, Hon. Poto Williams, Minister of Police Mr Paul Hunt, the Human rights Commissioner Ms Vicki Sloanes, Secretary General of NZ National Commission for UNESCO, representatives from both sides of the House including Chris Bishop and Grant Robertson as well as Rabbi, descendants of the Righteous Among The Nations and many survivors and children of survivors from the Holocaust.

The Educational Director for the competition had high praise for Jaymee: "Thank you for such a wonderful and thoughtful entry! I am so glad you were able to take part, and I'm going through the project you did in your school and am blown away by all the detail and information you learned! You and your teacher (Mrs Courtney) did a fantastic job. You should be very proud of yourself!".



Anna Tukuitoga

Coromandel Electorate Youth Representative

Anna Tukuitoga has an exciting year ahead having been recently selected to represent the Coromandel Electorate at Youth Parliament 2022. To achieve this Anna went through a selection process with all schools in the Hauraki electorate. The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity to hear from young people around the country on what is important to them, and for Youth MPs to actively work on topics and issues they are passionate about.

Anna's tenure as Coromandel Youth MP covers the period March to August 31 this year and is highlighted by a two-day event at Parliament in Wellington on July 19 - 20. As Anna has experience advocating on behalf of her peers through her role as New Zealand Country Music Association Youth Ambassador, we have no doubt that Anna will do a great job in this role.



Alesha-Ann de Penning

Well done to **Alesha-Ann de Penning**, who is the Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, has been selected for the Sir Peter Blake Inspire programme which will run for a week in August. Throughout the week, students will work together with scientists, environmental experts, a diverse range of leaders and other like-minded students to help them develop strong leadership skills while learning about topical environmental issues and how they can take action to tackle them.

Gateway is off to a productive start this year with 26 students having completed one of two Health and Safety Courses and are either out on Gateway or about to start their placement. Experiences range from building, farming, butchers, bakers, primary teaching and roofing to name a few. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Gateway Employers for putting their hands up and providing these fantastic experiences to our HPC students.

We have been fortunate to have had face to face visits from the Waikato and Massey University Liaisons last week with up to 28 students attending. A great turn out which gives a good indication of students thinking for 2023 and beyond.

Years 12 and 13 Pathway Interviews are off to a good start. We have a number of students who have made their decision about their future whether that be employment, Tertiary Studies or a gap year. Interview notes have been emailed to whānau members to help keep you in the loop so keep an eye out for these.

Careers Central tasks are well underway across all year levels: Goal setting, bullseye pathway questionnaires, CV writing, exposure to unusual jobs, drivers licence requirements and more.

We have 15 students registered to do the Learner Drivers Licence Course being held at HPC on March 16 - 18. A great opportunity for students to be guided by an experienced facilitator to prepare to sit the online test at the conclusion of the course.

Future Events:

Defence Force visit: Thursday 24 March 12:30pm
 Otago University Liaison visit: Monday 28 March 12:50pm
 Gateway Health and Safety Course #3: Thursday 31 March / 1 April
 Wintec Liaison visit: Monday 4 April 10:40am
 Victoria University Liaison visit: Monday 11 April 10:40am
 Canterbury University Liaison visit: Monday 11 April 12:50pm

Toni Brewer, HPC Careers Advisor

Gateway Opportunity

Twentymans Funeral Services, one of NZ's oldest funeral homes, is hosting a Hauraki Plains College student, Astrid Bithell who expressed an interest in learning more about the funeral industry with a specific request to be involved with mortuary work.

Amba Catran (Accounts Administrator) has a clear idea of the kind of attributes required for the family business. "Empathy is definitely an attribute that you require as a funeral director, along with the ability to converse with a cross-section of our community, be able to give trusted advice in a time of grief and be able to lead and help families so they can rely on you"

Astrid's Mother Anna was a long time employee with Twentymans, some 15 plus years, working as an embalmer and now her daughter has expressed an interest in following in her Mothers footsteps.



Astrid Bithell (left) with Twentymans' Director Adrian B. Catran

Operation Antarctica



Ex-pupil Robert Gordon who joined the NZ Army in February of 2019 as a Combat Driver within the Logistics Regiment, recalls a recent experience.

"In August of 2021 during the second national lockdown, an opportunity arose for me to apply for *Op Antarctica*. *Op Antarctica* is a deployment to Antarctica where the New Zealand defence force works with civilians at McMurdo Station and Scott Base both

stationed on Ross Island. The main effort for this deployment was to help unload the container ship the Ocean Giant to supply the people of these two bases.

On the 10th January 2022, 58 of us flew down to Christchurch to start our pre deployment isolation to avoid taking COVID-19 to Antarctica, which is COVID free. After some delays, the day finally came on the 7th February to make the trek down south, the flight taking roughly 5 ½ hours. The airfield in Antarctica is on the Ross ice shelf. We arrived in Antarctica at roughly 7pm with clear blue skies and relatively high winds blowing snow across the ground. We hopped on a bus headed for McMurdo station which would be home for the next three weeks.

The vessel offload wouldn't start for a week so in this time we took the chance to get used to trucks we would be driving. Being an American

base, we would be driving left hand drives and on the right hand side of the road. We also took this time to do some recreational activities. There are many walks you can do and many historic sights you can go and see. You can also go for a quick dip in the freezing waters if you're game enough to (which I was). As everyone knows Antarctica is one of the coldest places on the planet; over our time there we experienced temperatures ranging from -2 to -18 degrees celsius with wind chills up to -40 degrees celsius.

Once the offload started we would be doing 12 hour shifts non stop until the work was done. I was on the night shift, but with it being 24 hour daylight, it didn't take long to adjust and also made it still feel like it was day. Working closely with the American Navy, there were over 550 items to come off the ship from containers to excavators, with over 300 containers to be back loaded once everything was off. The ship was docked up next to a pier made out of a massive floating chunk of ice that was connected to land with a bridge, with the pier and bridge moving up and down with the swell which would turn out to be a problem. The whole operation was expected to take 10 days but it took a few days longer due to a number of things with one of them being two of the ship's crew testing positive for COVID. We only reloaded around 200 containers, then we had to stop completely because of the ice pier cracking underneath the bridge making it too dangerous to drive across.

We flew back to Christchurch on the 28th of February after what was for me an amazing once in a lifetime experience. My goal now is on *Op Farad* which is a 6 month deployment to Sinai.

Robert Gordon

Sports @ HPC

Club Rowers Head to Twizel

Mid February, a small contingent of rowers from the Hauraki Plains Rowing club were selected to compete in Twizel at the New Zealand Club Championships. The team included Lucas Dowty, Ethan Claridge, Fraser Thompson, Maggie Morrison, Rebecca Adams and Olivia Adams (ex student).

We all learnt so much from the experience, from learning the new COVID rules and having our own zone racing at a different venue. We are all very thankful to have had this experience especially with COVID-19 cancelling many previous regattas. For some rowers it was more successful than others, however our main goal was to come out of each race with a positive take-away. As for results, Olivia received a silver medal in her Women's U22 Single Sculls, Maggie and Rebecca achieved a 4th place in the A final for Women's Club Double Sculls, and also a 2nd placing in the B final for the Women's Senior Double Sculls. Lastly, Ethan and Fraser placed 5th in their B Final for the Men's Senior Double Sculls.

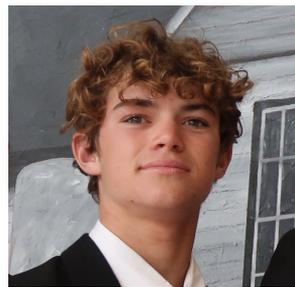


Fraser Thompson and Ethan Claridge racing for the Hauraki Rowing Club in Twizel

We would like to say a big thanks to Recreational Services Ltd who helped sponsor the team to go down to the South Island and thanks to Franklin Hamilton (coach) who organised this amazing experience.

Maggie Morrison (Year 13 Rower)

Individual Sporting Successes



Congratulations to **Ashling Welch** who is now both the North Island and New Zealand Ladies national title holder after the recent sporting shoot event in Hamilton. Ashling also qualified for the NZ Sporting Ladies and Junior Oceania team to shoot in Australia in April.

Also in winning form, was **Ayisha Hull** who competed in the North Island and then the NZ Trench and DTL championships earlier this term. Ayisha won both the C grade North Island and NZ Trench Championships with a number of first and second placings at the North Island DTL event in both Ladies and B Grade events.

Congratulations to **Heather Underwood** who has been selected to represent New Zealand at the world championships in France in July 2022 for the Equestrian Mounted Games team.

Ryan Denize recently attended the Jim Palmer Tasman Revival at Pukekohe Raceway, achieving two second placings and a first in the Improved Production Class Group 3 section. Well done Ryan.

Year 13 student and Sports Leader, **Hunter Crowe**, is enjoying what is proving to be a great Cricket season for him, playing for the Northern Districts under 17 team and also Senior A grade Club level in the Waikato Valley / Hamilton competition. In a recent game, he took 5 wickets for 7 runs including a hat trick for his club team.

Inter-Hapu Cricket Challenge



This year we are endeavouring to increase a team culture and the friendly rivalry between our four Hapu: Ohinemuri, Piako, Tikapa and Waihou. Apart from the Swimming and Athletics sports, the first challenge was an inter-hapu cricket challenge where the students compete during lunch times against the other hapu to win the junior and senior cricket trophy. Our goal is to get the students together within a competitive, exciting and inclusive atmosphere with prizes and opportunities to develop new skills and friendships. Bring on finals this week!! May the best hapu win.

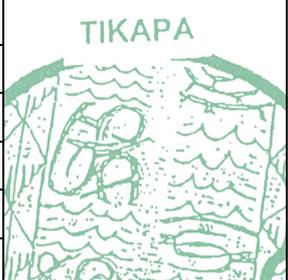
*Molly Maitland
Inter-Hapu Leader*

HPC Athletics Champs

		Champions	Runners Up	Overall Hapu Winners
Junior Girls	Track	Holly Timmins	Caeleigh Monrad	
	Field	Kacey Soppet	Caeleigh Monrad Jessica Broadbent	
Junior Boys	Track	Brennan Fitness	Austen Crowe Samuel Duggan	
	Field	Brennan Fitness	Cayden De Graaf	
Intermediate Girls	Track	Emily Logan	Georgia McTaggart	
	Field	Zoe Winter	Eden Treanor	
Intermediate Boys	Track	Zack Conroy	Allan Barriball Reuben Smith	
	Field	Andy Hindmarsh Kaleb Morgan		
Senior Girls	Track	Brooke McTaggart	Ania Ballantine	
	Field	Alysha Read	Aleisha Charteris Hayley Mackay	
Senior Boys	Track	Hamish Hart	Trent Bax	
	Field	Seth Pascoe	Paora Emery	



HPC Swimming Champs

	Champions	Runners Up	Overall Hapu Winners
Junior Girls	Paige-Emily Tevita-Williams	Holly Timmins	
Junior Boys	Cayden De Graaf	Brennan Fitness	
Intermediate Girls	Ava Steel	Zoe Winter	
Intermediate Boys	Allan Barriball	Jamie Kennedy	
Senior Girls	Ruby Forsman	Alysha Read	
Senior Boys	Miles Sargent	Hamish Hart	



Robert Claude Abel (Claude)

11 June 1902 - 29 April 1990

It's a small world proved true when recently Robyn Budd of Black Pond Farm in Mangatangi, mentioned that she was the grand daughter of a former Ngatea District High School teacher. Robyn and her partner Hamish have offered to sponsor a school event with a donation of 500 organic beef patties.

Her grand father was Robert Claude Abel who taught in the Senior Secondary class at Ngatea in the late 1920s. From Ngatea, Claude when to Helensville District High School also as Senior Secondary and then during and after World War II, took up a number of Primary School Principal positions including Titirangi Primary, Helensville, Waihi Primary, Fairburn Road which he opened and finally to Tamaki Primary before retiring.

Wherever he taught, Claude was well respected in the teaching circles and well-liked by his students.

While Claude was a Ngatea local, his future wife, Lorna Nelson Lane, taught at Netherton Primary School. Lorna and Claude were married on New Years Eve 1929, and had 4 children: Patricia, Lane, Anne and Richard.



Robert Claude Abel

Claude had many active interests. He was an avid rugby player and sailor in his younger days. He walked, biked or caught a train to most places, and in fact the family did not have a car for a very long time. During his whole life, Claude loved Piha and the whole family would get themselves there for long summer holidays. In his later years, he spent hours and hours at Piha and was highly involved in restoring and maintaining the "Lily Pond" on Garden Road. This is now named after him - Claude Abel Reserve. His grandchildren remember him taking them for long walks down Nikau Grove and teaching them the names of all of the native trees.

Claude was a very curious person and loved to learn. He knew all the Shakespeare plays inside and out, and could quote lines from many of the plays perfectly. He thrived on education and encouraged his children and grandchildren to strive for the best in all they did.

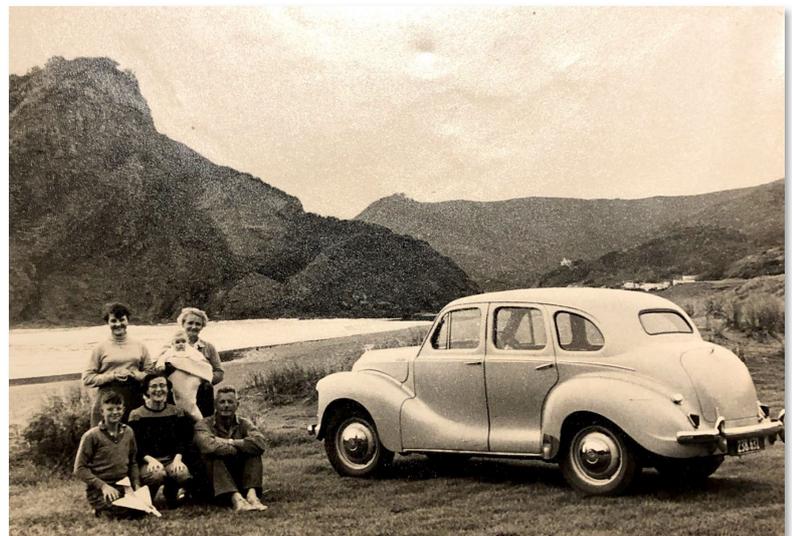
Claude loved playing cards and taught anyone who wanted to learn. As young children we all played Gin Rummy with him, and once older he taught us cribbage and 500, hours would be spent playing games with the family around the table. Designing crosswords for publication was another interest and he practiced calligraphy (would write out proverbs), had two vegetable gardens and drove a Triumph Toledo!!

Grand daughter Robyn has fond memories of her grand father. "When I was about 10 years old, my Pop asked me to play him a tune on the piano (which I loved learning). He listened so attentively, and then a few hours later while we were sitting on the front steps Pop said to me "I have only one regret in my life.... And that is that I never learnt a musical instrument". That has stuck with me throughout my life, as I always thought that if I only have one regret at his age too, then my life will have been pretty amazing".

Robyn's father Richard was Principal at Kopuarahi School from 1968 to 1972. A small world indeed.



Claude and Lorna Abel on their wedding day



Claude, Lorna and family at Piha



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