

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

Friday 8 July
Term 2 Ends

Monday 25 July
Term 3 Starts

Tuesday 2 August
Te Kuiti Exchange (away)

Tuesday 9 August
Cocurricular Photos

Tuesday 23 August
MOE Teacher Only Day
and
Out of Zone Information Evening
(College Hall 7pm)

Wednesday 31 August
Out of Zone Ballot closes @ 12noon

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

Learning to Leave a Legacy

Leaving a legacy is one of the values we endeavour to instil in students. The Year 12 Horticulture class picked up the initiative to transform one of the school gardens. Said Bronwyn Dyer, (Horticulture teacher), "The purpose of this project was to encourage students to develop their creative strengths and to learn more about the practical side of the placement of plants in an actual garden. To develop these strengths students were given the opportunity to visit the Hamilton Gardens and gain some insights into plant placement and design."

Students then created their own landscape design based on the exact shape and size of garden outside the music room. With advice from Kevin Place (Grounds and Gardens Manager), regarding plant types, shapes, colours and themes, the students developed a landscape plan for the placement and choice of the plants and hard features that they used on their designs. Students then submitted this plan for the NCEA level 2 Landscape Plan assessment. Following further discussions with students, a general consensus around recreating a theme for the garden based on the fact that the Hauraki Plains was originally a swamp which has been turned into farmland emerged.

From this a garden was created representing the backyard of a pioneer garden with a fence and gate leading into a paddock which was planted up to look like it is in the process of being developed.

The old totara fence posts, gate and wire were donated from Mr Chris deBeer (Agriculture Tutor) and Mrs Bronwyn Dyer (Teacher). The rocks and old plough were collected and delivered by Miles Crook. Students were then involved in creating the old fence and planting the plants.

By the end of the year, it is hoped that the garden will also hold a place for a carved pole (part of one of the totara posts) which is being designed and carved by Matua Normie Anderson's class. The pole will represent the Tangata Whenua and their involvement in the development of the Hauraki Plains.

"It was great to have a "hands on" experience that students were given control of. It will be good to come back to school in a few years time to check it out and see how the garden has grown" commented Year 12 student Jack Pallister.

Principal's Comment



We, as in teachers, parents and students, can be quick to label some kids as "smart" - that is they give correct answers, fast responses and achieve good grades - or "not smart" in that they are last to finish, hate reading and hide their school reports!

People possess varying strengths and combinations of intelligences and strength in one area does not predict strength in another. These intelligences also work together as different tasks and roles usually require more than one type of intelligence. These multiple intelligences are not fixed. While we may be naturally inclined to being smart in one or more ways, they also develop through our experiences and ability to practise, persist and reflect.

Offering a range of courses which align to the diverse interests, strengths and aspirations of students is key to ensuring students gain meaningful experiences at secondary level.

NCEA Level 2 is considered the basic minimum qualification for many pathways and NCEA Level 3 for University. The Ministry of Education recently released our 2021 school leaver qualification report based on HPC school leavers exiting secondary schooling.

"The society which scorns excellence in plumbing as a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy: neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water."
(John Gardiner)

While the University pathway has traditionally been 'well lit' in secondary schools, other pathways such as the in trades and services have not always been so well served. Consequently Careers NZ has developed a Vocational Pathway model acknowledging six broad areas for career and employment opportunities.

Given this, it is vital that schools are places where students can discover their particular ways of being smart in the world and then develop these for a career pathway or recreational enjoyment.

Ngaire Harris
PRINCIPAL

To this end, schools used to be places essentially for those destined for university while students with other strengths such as hands on learning dropped off for a different life. We are now more aware that there are many ways of being smart in the world - Naturalist (nature smart); Musical (sound smart); Mathematical (number/reasoning smart); Interpersonal (people smart); Kinesthetic (body smart); Linguistic (word smart) and Existential (life smart).

NCEA L2 or Above		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Maori	No. of Students	32	30	32	33	36
	% of total	86.5	90.9	88.9	82.5	94.7
European / Pakeha	No. of Students	108	99	123	120	138
	% of total	90	90.8	92.5	88.9	92
Pacific	No. of Students	3	3	2	4	2
	% of total	100	100	66.7	100	100
Asian	No. of Students	2	4	1	2	6
	% of total	100	100	100	100	100

Board of Trustees Update



This week the Board advertised in the Education Gazette the role of a new principal. Thank you to all our Community, Students and Staff that took the time to give us their feedback on some key areas that we will look for in our search

staff to contribute to planning and solutions.

- Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of current developments in curriculum, pedagogy and NCEA, and understands how they might be navigated.
- Is committed to innovative academic and vocational pathways that meet the diverse needs and aspirations of all students.
- Is committed to giving practical effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Is genuinely caring, placing student outcomes and wellbeing at the centre of all decision making, while also being committed to the wellbeing and professional growth of staff.
- Shows a high level of financial acumen and has demonstrable experience in property, human resources and health and safety management.

- High integrity, a strong moral compass, lives the school values.

Our students want their Principal to:

- Be friendly, relaxed, easy to talk to and have a sense of humour.
- Be open minded, willing to listen, firm but fair.
- Love their job and be interested in us as individuals.

for the right person to lead the school for the next number of years. In an ever changing environment of education in NZ, the successful applicant will need to display a broad number of attributes and the bullet points below list the higher level and most frequent responses to all surveyed.

The board will finalise the successful candidate towards the end of August.

Hauraki Plains College is seeking a principal who:

- Embraces HPC's rural character and is committed to being visible and involved in the local community and the wider life of the school.
- Is an outstanding communicator who listens to understand, cultivates a climate of trust and mutual respect and has demonstrated the ability to build strong, reciprocal relationships with all stakeholders.
- Is an experienced, future-focused, transformative leader who can deliver desired strategic outcomes through consultation and collaboration, empowering

Board Elections -

- The tri-ennial elections are being held in the next three month timeframe. This month (July), we will advertise for nominations of interest and a note will be coming out soon for this process. I encourage you to put your hand up if you are interested in your community and the educational opportunities our school offers all our students. The role is not exclusive to those that have perhaps held Board roles at other schools, institutions or businesses as there are a lot of resources and training seminars available to get people up to the task of governing in the education environment.

Personal Qualities that are important to our Community:

- Approachable, empathetic, emotionally intelligent.
- Inclusive of all cultures, speak some Te Reo and understand Te Ao Māori.
- Vibrant and relevant; enjoys and is able to connect with rangatahi.
- Passionate about learning and student achievement.

Andrew Gordon
PRESIDING MEMBER HPC BOARD

School Board Elections: Nominations from 15 July.

It's board election time again. Next term we will be electing board members for the next three years. Nominations will open for the election of five parent representatives to the school board **no later than 15 July**. NOTE: This starts during the school holidays.

The returning officer for the triennial board election is Bernardine Vester. She can be contacted at returningofficer@myschoolelection.nz.

The timetable for the election is:

- Main Roll closes: Wednesday 13 July
- Call for Nominations: No later than 15 July.

- Supplementary Roll closes: Monday 1 August
- **Nominations close: Wednesday 3 August**

If there are more nominations than vacancies, then parents and caregivers will receive an invitation to vote either electronically or by post.

- Voting starts: Wednesday 10 August
- Election day is September 7
- Voting count: Tuesday 13 September
- New board in place: Wednesday 14 September

Nominations can be made online through the following link provided in the Call for Nominations.

www.myschoolelection.nz/mynomination

Past Pupils

Magan Schipper**My Journey since high school**

I left Hauraki Plains College in 2011 to set off for tertiary study at The University of Auckland. Here I graduated with a Bachelor of Health Science and a Bachelor of Science (Biological Science major) conjoint degree. After five years of study I was then lucky enough to step straight into employment at the Institute for Plant and Food Research in Ruakura, Hamilton. To this day I still feel very privileged to be a research associate working in the applied molecular phytopathology team. Most of the work I am involved in is centred around the disease control of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* (Psa), a bacterial pathogen of kiwifruit.



Magan Schipper

Laboratory work ranges from qPCR and nanostring gene expression trials, copper resistance assays, through to more recent work studying the microbiome of kiwifruit. A couple of things that I have learned about myself on my journey since high school would have to include always staying true to yourself and doing what works for you, whether this be preparing for an exam, a job interview or meeting deadlines in the workplace. Everyone learns, thinks and operates differently, so explore what works best for you and stick to it. For me, being organised and having a clear, methodical plan in the way I approach tasks has always really helped. For those of you going on to tertiary education, try to find study techniques that are effective for you. Join study groups, work collaboratively, but most importantly, don't just do study for the sake of it.

Some advice for this year's school leavers - always follow your passion. It is so important to set out and do what you enjoy, not what you feel you should do or to meet other people's expectations. Do what excites you, challenges you and fulfils you.

Also, take every opportunity to get experience in your field of interest. This will help you tremendously in finding work after study or high school. Whether it be applying for an internship at a company, volunteering or taking up holiday work. Use your summer breaks wisely to gain skills, learn about the job and see if it is in fact what you want to do as a career.

Becky Scoggins

After leaving HPC, I studied at the University of Auckland for 6 years. Whilst there, I completed a Law degree with Honours and a Science degree. During my time at University I was fortunate enough to go on a semester exchange to the University of British Columbia, Canada. After leaving University and being admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court, I worked at Russell McVeagh, one of the country's largest commercial law firms, in the General Litigation team for 2 years. After that, I moved to Wellington to a criminal law firm, Luke Cunningham Clere, where I have worked as a Crown Prosecutor regularly appearing in Court for the past 2 ½ years.



Becky Scoggins

Maintaining a strong connection with home in the Hauraki Plains and a strong relationship with my family and friends from HPC has been essential for me and has provided constant support throughout my journey so far.

My advice to this year's school leavers would be think deeply about what you really want to do when you leave school and know that it's okay to change your plan along the way. I know how difficult it is to know what you want to do when you leave school - I didn't really know what I wanted to do career-wise when I left school and changed my degrees part way through to study Law. I've also found that it's really important to keep up the things you enjoy outside of work (for me, its acting) and this typically involves a bit more of a deliberate effort than when you're at school.

Out and About



Alysha Read - Rythmic Gymnastics



Max the school cat keeping an eye out in the Hub



Students helping with Bus Duty



Blood Drive in the College Hall



Mrs Harris handing out placings at Cross Country



Ryan Denize built a motorized trike in Year 12 Engineering



Extended tutoring opportunities at lunchtime



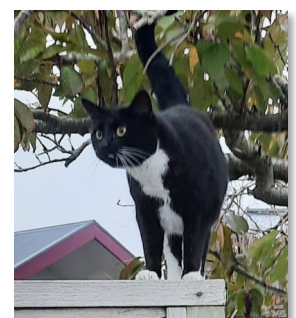
Sarrah Bibi (left) on Gateway



Year 13 BCT building a deck



Year 12 Automotive students



Good morning Max



Year 13 Outdoor Ed program



Year 12 Outdoor Education class on an overnight tramp up The Pinnacles



Aerial shot of school



Year 12 Horticulture class trip to WINTEC gardens



Equestrian



Moto-X



Junior Girls Football



Boys 1st XV



Boys 1st XI Hockey



Girls Basketball



Girls College A Netball

Celebrating Matariki

This year, schools were given a new public holiday, Matariki. Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades which rises in midwinter and for many Māori, heralds the start of a new year. According to Māori tradition, the god of the wind, Tāwhiri-mātea was so angry when his siblings separated their parents, Ranginui the sky father and Papatuanuku the earth mother.

That he waged war on his brothers defeating each one. Only Tūmatauenga god of war stood in his way after a tumultuous battle Tūmatauenga stood victorious. After his defeat Tāwhiri-mātea, in his final act of defiance, tore out his eyes and threw them to the heavens.

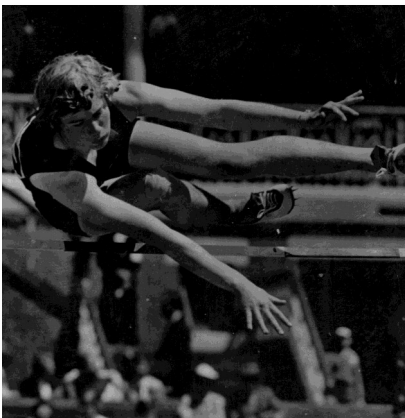
Traditionally Matariki was a time to acknowledge those who had passed and release their spirits to the stars. It was also a time to be thankful and share food after harvest time with family and friends. In a time when we have been through a lot of challenges in life, hopefully the significance and importance of this time will help us reflect, uplift the spirit of everyone and strengthen our resilience.



Mānawatia a Matariki, Mānawatia te whānau, Mānawatia te mauri o te katoa. Cherish this special time, cherish the family, and cherish everything in life.

Matua Normie Anderson

Jumping to the Commonwealth Games



Mary jumping at the Olympic Games 1956

With the 2022 Commonwealth Games fast approaching, many of us are unaware of a former Olympic and Commonwealth Games competitor from our own local area. When the Ngatea Athletic Club started up in 1948, Mary Hayward (nee Donaghy) joined for what became an outstanding athletic career.

At 15, Mary's father suggested she try high jump, having competed in track sprints and long jump up until that point. Within three months, Mary had won her

first NZ High Jump title in 1955.

Mary reflects back on those times: "There were no soft pads to land on, just the ground dug up to make it a little softer. As we lived some distant from Ngatea, that had a domain, and I did not have a driver's licence, I had to do my training at home. My father mowed a strip for me to long jump and put a pit in for me to high jump. No lighting, so was all done in the dark in all weathers as no gyms around. In the winter months, we would arrive home from work around 5pm. It was dark 5.30, and then I had to go out myself, usually in the dark and cold. Each Sunday my parents took me up to Papakura for a morning session of training with Frank Sharpley, a wonderful man and coach, who remained my coach for my whole career."

Mary went on to set a NZ record at Easter at Matamata with a jump of 5ft 4 ½ inches and according to the 1964 Guinness Book of Records, was the first in the world to jump over her own height. She was then chosen to compete in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne.

"We had no coaches allowed at the Games in those days and were disqualified if we got any information from a coach when competing. There were no doctors with the teams; it was all amateur

and we were not allowed to accept money other than maybe a little towards costs if we went to compete in another area. Most of the team were not paid by their employers when away competing so it was very hard if they had a family, that being why so many retired so young as unable to continue financially. I was very fortunate that I worked for Hauraki Plains Motors where Mr Phil Benner who owned the Motors at the time paid me in full. It was a challenging experience for a 16 year old, a young country girl who had hardly been out of Ngatea.

In 1958, Mary competed at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Wales, where she competed in the High Jump, Long Jump and Relay team, winning a Silver medal in the high jump, which at 5ft 7in was a Commonwealth record and also was placed 5th in the Long Jump and 4th in the Relay. She also broke the world long jump record that day but could not be recognised as an official walked across the pit before it was officially measured. After more national titles, Mary tore a cartilage in her left knee. The injuries meant she was unable to compete in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Mary and her husband John and their families have a rich connection with the Plains. John's grandfather, John Horatio brought a farm at Netherton in 1918 and his father and grandfather farmed there. Mary's grandfather, James Donaghy won a farm in the 1910 ballot when her father was 2 years of age.

Mary and John met at school, both attending Ngatea District High School. John went to Kerepehi Primary then attended NDHS for his secondary years. Mary went to Ngatea District High School (both Primary and Secondary), starting in 1945 and leaving 10 years later to work in the office for Mr Frank Brewer, headmaster at the time, and then moved to a position at HP Motors. Mary and John were married in 1963, farming on the family farm at Netherton. The Ministry of Works took their farm for flood protection in 1972 and the couple shifted to Hopai Road East in Ngatea.

Mary and John have two children, Karen and Bruce who both went to Ngatea school with Bruce's 3 children, Kirsty, Ricky and Thomas also going to Ngatea Primary, then Hauraki Plains College and now two of Kirsty's children, Ellyse and Cruize, also go there. Altogether there have been five generations of the Donaghy family who have attended school at Ngatea.

Plans are currently undergoing for Mary's Olympic and Commonwealth blazers to be loaned for display at the College.

The AV O'Brien Trophy for All Round Sporting Excellence



Mr A.V O'Brien

Mr Albert O'Brien (often known locally as Bert O'Brien) arrived from the West Coast to take on the Principalship of HPC from 1967 to 1980. It was a time when the school was being re-invented as a college after several decades as a High School including both primary and secondary.

Son Graham describes his father's sporting interests. "By way of background, Bert thought that all games were good games, although he had his doubts about rugby league - odd for somebody who actually had quite a lot of respect for some of the hard nuts from the mining villages inland from Greymouth. He may have thought it was a waste of talent that could have played the 15 man code.

At any rate, while I found out years later that he had played indoor basketball, as it was then known, for some years on the West Coast before I was born, I think it would be fair to say that his main passions were rugby, cricket and track and field athletics. He dedicated a good deal of time to the proposition that if young people wanted to play a sport, he should try to make it possible and to give them the opportunity to be as good at it as possible. In that, he was hugely supported by Mum, who shared the philosophy.

He was a coach, administrator, official (he refereed representative rugby and was umpire for minor Association cricket), journalist and driver all over the catchment areas for Hokitika District High School / Westland High School Act and Hauraki Plains College. Even when he retired, he coached me at the University Club and ferried students to and from practices. On the West Coast he would make return trips to South Westland to bring students up to play rugby or cricket, just as he used to take them home to Maramarua and Kaihua from HPC if there had been after school practices, or after games. God knows what they thought of his stories; this was

after all, their teacher or Principal, so they had to be polite.

While he was evidently a useful batsman when he was younger, he spent more time organising our cricket at HPC, and publicly (and in assembly) despairing of our efforts than he did playing.

He had been a successful track coach on the West Coast but he really only ever coached my brother and I on the track once he came to Ngatea. Rugby was a passion. I recall some seasons when he coached a grade team, the First XV and a senior club side while being a referee, on the junior advisory board and a club delegate. During the years that I was in the First XV, he was the coach. If the timing was right, we might well finish the game and then go immediately to Auckland to watch my brother play (in those days people were apprehensive at the thought that petrol might eventually cost as much as \$1 a gallon).

In order to provide for younger players at school level, Dad formed the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Rugby Union with Jack Morgan from Waihi College, John Pullan from Paeroa and Jack McLean from Thames managed and coached teams from Thames Valley Secondary Schools chosen from first XV level and younger. I think if you were to ask members of the 1971 Valley Schools side, many of them would nominate beating Auckland by 20 points at Eden Park (all points scored by Hauraki Plains College players) as a highlight, but in fact for several years with the younger teams there was quite a level of success against teams from bigger unions.

Girls hockey was always strong at Hauraki but then boys hockey started, encouraged by him. The wonderful rowing tradition at Hauraki started strangely enough because of his connection with members of the University Rugby Club in Auckland who donated the original Gil Webster boat in the early 1970s.

The whole idea was to give young people the opportunity to play, and to make them as good as they could be. But anybody who wins this trophy probably should know that the person that it is named after once went to the North-South rugby game at Athletic Park rather than to his only sister's wedding!"

The A.V O'Brien Award for All Round Sporting Excellence was first presented at the 1998 Prize giving in honor of Mr A.V O'Brien and a fitting reminder of someone who did so much for many sports at HPC.

Past Prize Winners: AV O'Brien Trophy for All Round Sporting Excellence

2021	A. Ballantine
2020	A. Makiha
2019	J. Barker
2018	G. Ngataua
2017	S. Clayton-Greene
2016	G. Barrier
2015	Z. Summers
2014	V. Kumar
2013	R. Hayward
2012	D. Baker
2011	G. Speedy
2010	A. Assmus

2009	K. O'Hallahan
2008	A. Pulford
2007	A. Pulford
2006	T. Ikinofu
2005	N. Sorensen
2004	M. Jacobs
2003	M. Rawnsley
2002	J. Jackson
2001	D. Harrison
2000	S. Trethowen
1999	K. Rawnsley
1998	L. Stephenson

Coral-Lee Thompson

Our thoughts have been with the Thompson - Baker Whānau in the recent sad passing of former student, Coral-Lee Thompson.

Coral-Lee is the daughter of Barton and Dana Thompson (nee Herewini) whose whānau and families have had a strong connection with local schools. Barton's mother Faye (nee Omrsby) attended NDHS along with younger siblings Bryce and Greg. Dana's grand parents, David Baker and Janice (nee McKinnon) both attended Ngatea District High School from 1951 to 1952. Their daughter and Dana's mother, Coral attended Turua Primary before enrolling in HPC in 1969.

Dana herself attended Turua Primary before starting in HPC in 1990. Barton started at HPC in the same year after leaving Kaiaua Primary. Together Bart and Dana have been heavily

involved in college life with Bart coaching the First XV and Dana serving on the Board of Trustees for many years as well as netball coaching. Their four girls, Chelsey, Shyanne, Alyssa and Coral-Lee all coming to HPC and making their mark in various ways.

Writes Dana, "Coral-Lee played HPC netball, rugby and touch although academically it was challenging for her, she enjoyed the many opportunities the college had on offer, which is a lot more than what I had as a student as well as the years my grandmother and mother spent too.

Coral-Lee passed in a tragic car accident after leaving netball from Morrinsville, at 8.10pm Friday 27th May 2022. She leaves behind 5 siblings and 2 nephews who adore her."



HPC Girls Rugby



College A playing in Boulten Cup (2017)



Coral-Lee with her Whānau

ShowQuest

ShowQuest is NZ's largest performing arts event which is held annually and involves competitions in Art, Music, Dance, Drama, Culture and Technology. HPC again entered an item in the Drama competition with a runner up award in the open category for the Waikato region. The HPC entry also won awards for best live music, best sound track and best theme. Students were responsible for all aspects of the entry with Rose Macready, Molly Maitland and Hayley Gibbons taking the lead for the group.

The title of HPC's entry this year was *Not All Men but All Women* and was about spreading awareness of how so many women, an estimated 80%, have experienced being taken advantage of in their life time.



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