

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

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 31 August

Out of Zone Ballot closes @ 12noon

Wednesday 7 Sept

Senior Reports issued

Friday 9 September

Call back day

Thursday 22 September

Senior Subject Selection
Evening 7pm

Wednesday 28 September

Cultural Awards Evening 7pm

Friday 30 September

End of Term 3

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

Unplugged Concert

Unplugged is a well imbedded event in the cultural landscape at HPC and with the lifting of COVID restrictions, it was an appreciative audience, who filled the music room recently.

As the name suggests, *Unplugged* is focused on acoustic performances and show cases the talents of a diverse range of musicians without the aid of a sound system. From the Jazz Band's opening performance, to the Guitar Ensemble, to the school choir, to solo vocal and instrumental performances, including the violin, cello and piano, it was both a stunning and entertaining evening. The experience of senior performances was well matched by the enthusiasm of junior students.

Year 13 student Fraser Thompson has been a member of the Jazz Band and Guitar Ensemble, playing a solo on the piano for the event. "The feeling that you might not be ready to perform in front of an audience and then just getting out there is really satisfying. It's an inviting and appreciative audience and you don't feel you are being judged," commented Fraser. Fellow student and violinist Sean Ea agreed: "The best part is just enjoying it. It is hard for the younger kids to play on stage and get used to the nerves but so good to see that with so many younger students involved that Music will continue to be strong."

Reflecting on *Unplugged*, Teacher in charge of Music Jordana van Vliet commented, "We are very proud of the efforts of all the students involved. Some great talent was on display. It's especially commendable considering the last few years we've had and how students had to rehearse and practise on their own. It was great to see the event come together."



Jordana van Vliet

Principal's Comment



Over this term, in Monday morning assemblies, we are following the story of an out-of-favour basketball coach and an extraordinarily talented player from the recently released film *Hustle*.

One of the main themes of *Hustle* is the idea that life, like Basketball, is a contact sport. In all contact sports whether basketball or rugby, people get hurt. They end up with bruises, bumps, scars and broken bones. That, however, doesn't stop the game from being played. To hustle in life means that even with knowing that there are going to be some disappointments, failures, mistakes, challenges and setbacks and some times simply one hard thing after another, we turn up anyway.

Life as a contact sport also means that we don't shirk away from doing the job, or shrink from the challenges or pass up the opportunity to contribute, however hard that might be. The alternative is to play it safe, stand on the sidelines, criticise those who are in the game or complain about those trying to make it happen.

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority recently announced that for the third year in a row, the number of credits students needed to achieve their senior qualifications has been reduced. While this decision reflects a disrupted learning environment with students and teachers impacted by winter flus and COVID, I wonder what it is teaching our young people? More than ever before, the capacity to be resilient, lean into challenges rather than back away from them and hustle through new realities is vital. We are running the risk of cultivating a mindset, that demands to be rescued when life throws some tough balls in our direction. We do not do ourselves any favours by expecting the game to go our way, be fair and win. Learning from mistakes, losses, challenges and setbacks is all part of becoming the best version of ourselves.

As someone somewhere said, "Maybe life isn't about avoiding the bruises. Maybe it's about collecting the scars to prove we showed up for it."

Ngaire Harris
PRINCIPAL

A sincere thank you to the outgoing Board. In total, they have contributed more than 50 years of voluntary service to education in our community.

Ex Student Trent Summers



Trent Summers was Head Boy at HPC in 2011. He recounts his career pathway from leaving at the end of that year:

"I moved to Christchurch in 2012 to go to the University of Canterbury where I studied Civil Engineering and gained a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons), then added on another to complete a Masters in Engineering Management.

I spent 5 years in my first job working as a Structural Engineer for GHD designing mostly new commercial buildings, warehouses and schools; along with earthquake strengthening work following the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes. I have been a year with Southbase Construction as a Design Manager where I work in the pre-construction space and essentially project manage the design phase of 'design and build' projects mainly for schools. It is fast paced, problem solving and I love it.

Early into my first job, my boss gave me the advice "in the first 5 years, just say yes". I did and still try to live like this as much as I can. It has created some stress and life imbalance at times and it definitely shouldn't come at the cost of your mental and physical health, but having done so, I've been able to get some opportunities for travel and work experience that I'd have otherwise turned down because I had 'too much on' or 'it wasn't the right timing' or simply a fear of change or the uncertainty made my default decision a no.

My advice to school leavers: never underestimate the opportunities coming from a small rural town gives you. How you carry yourself, your work ethic and how you interact and care for others is all influenced by this small community and you'll find it's an amazing point of difference.

You'll also have some weird encounters with people who know of the area well. It's given me a couple of opportunities when I've least expected it."

Purnell Lawyers
Phone: 07 868 8680

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LAWYERS

Insight Legal
Phone: 07 867 7014

INSIGHT LEGAL

Board of Trustees Update



The Triennial School Board Election is taking place at present with voting officially closing on the 7th September 2022. Those parents/caregivers who are listed on our voting roll may already have received or are about to receive voting papers in the mail. These can be dropped off at the college main office up until 4pm on the 7th September or posted back in the envelope provided. The results will be published on the 13th September with the new Board officially in place from the 14th September.

This is my last opportunity to thank the current Board members Anita Llewellyn, Penny Claridge, Alesha-Ann De Penning, Roger Hunter, Simon Main, Ian Clark, Steve Morrison, Ngaire Harris, and our minute secretary Carolyn Purcell for the time and commitment put in to the governance of the College. It has been a great pleasure to work alongside them all.

I would also like to thank Ngaire for her long service to the school and community. Her service to Hauraki Plains College has been exemplary. It has been a pleasure working alongside her.

Andrew Gordon
PRESIDING MEMBER HPC BOARD

Gateway



“My experience doing Gateway with AC Construction has been awesome and really amazing to see what it would be like if I was to become a builder. It was also really cool to get some hands-on experience with tools that I have never used before. The past 8 weeks, I have learnt how important it is to have really good communication on a site e.g Aaron and I talking to see what day I will be doing Gateway. Another example is Aaron having to talk to all the other tradies.” *Chris Lourens (Year 11 Student)*

EPRO8 Success



L-R: Tomas Alvarado, Ben Steinemann, Conor Johnson and Austen Crowe

Four Year 9 students from Hauraki Plains College competed in the University of Waikato School of Engineering sponsored EPRO8 Challenge in June and finished second overall in a nail-biting final held at the University of Waikato at the beginning of July. This was the

first time that a team had represented Hauraki Plains College in this Challenge.

Coromandel Youth MP Anna Tukuitoga



Youth Parliament is held every three years, and is an opportunity for young New Zealanders to learn first-hand about democracy and decision-making. Anna Tukuitoga, who is best known for her award winning country singing, was selected as Youth MP for National's

Coromandel MP, Scott Simpson. Anna reflects on the experience: “The three day event started with a Mihi Whakatau which was led by the Kaumatua and two youth MP's. We had a tour of parliament buildings and then an opportunity to split off into our select committee groups. I joined the Social Services and Community select committee which gave me an opportunity to voice concerns for rural needs in terms of elderly care, housing and student affordability .

I had an awesome experience, especially meeting with like-minded Pasifika youth. Mental health and behavioural issues were major themes during the general debates and it is evident that mental health is a major issue in schools all across Aotearoa.

In the EPRO8 Challenge, teams of four students compete against other Year 9-10 teams from around the Waikato region to complete challenges requiring Engineering Problem-Solving and Innovation. Teams are provided with a standard workstation with electronics components, gears, and construction elements and have a choice of four challenges to complete during the two and a half hour duration.

Successful teams demonstrate clear teamwork and often complete more than two challenges in the allotted time. In the 'Rock Band' edition of the Challenge, the team built a stage lighting unit, an automatic drum machine and a sound system.

To progress to the Grand Final the HPC team had to qualify from a Heat and a Semi-Final. It was clear from the convincing first placings in the Heat and the Semi-Final that they were going to be in the race.

The team, consisting of Tomas Alvarado, Ben Steinemann, Conor Johnson and Austen Crowe were unlucky to miss the top spot by only 30 points, finally finishing second to the ACG Tauranga team they had drawn first equal with in their Semi-Final just a few days earlier. Being the only finalist team in 2022 with no Year 10 students represented, they have high hopes of success for next year's EPRO8 Challenge.

Mahurangi Exchange

From the archives 1963: "This year saw the first of what will now be the annual billeting trips with Mahurangi College. When the trip was decided earlier this year, Mahurangi College said they would visit us this year and we could visit them the next year."

Three teams competed in that first exchange, the results being:

- Rugby First XV: Hauraki Plains College won 17 - 12
- Basketball (netball) College A HPC lost 19 - 16
- Girls Hockey First X1 was a 2 all draw

This year, eight teams competed for the "Mahurangi Trophy" donated previously by Mahurangi College to celebrate 50 years of competition between the two schools. At the dinner event, dance groups from both colleges entertained students with performances.

Final results were:

Boys Basketball: 75 - 65 (Mahurangi)
 Girls Basketball: 105-21 (HPC)
 Boys Football: 6 - 1 (Mahurangi)
 Girls Football: 10-1 (Mahurangi)

Boys Hockey: 5 - 2 (Mahurangi)
 Girls Hockey: 2 - 2 (Draw)
 College A Netball: 33 - 33 (Draw)
 First XV Rugby: 20-18 (Mahurangi)



Te Kuiti Exchange

Early Term 3 saw the annual sporting exchange with Te Kuiti take place, also a tradition from the 1960's when NDHS become HPC. No longer an overnight stay, the exchange, eight teams bused to their hosts for a day of competitive rivalry.

Final results were:

Girls Rugby: 42-5 (HPC)
Boys Rugby: 47-12 (Te Kuiti)
Girls Football: 9-0 (HPC)
Boys Football: 11-1 (HPC)

Girls Basketball: 41-25 (HPC)
Boys Basketball: 48-48 (Draw)
Netball: 33-28 (HPC)
Mixed Hockey: 10-6 (HPC)



Sports @ HPC



Back: Fletcher Grant, Luke Curtis, Jack Bond,
Nathan Everett, Calin Mischewski
Front: Ayisha Hull, Amelia Sanson

NZ Fish & Game North Island Secondary Schools Clay Target Championship 2022.

On Saturday the 9th of July at the Waikato Clay Target Club seven HPC students represented our school competing with schools across the whole of New Zealand.

Nathan Everett achieved a 4th place in the boys single rise fish and game trophy match with a score of 20 out of 20 and was one of only 5 shooters to achieve this score out of nearly 200 shooters, this event placed up to 10th.

Ayisha Hull was placed 5th in the girls single rise fish and game trophy match.

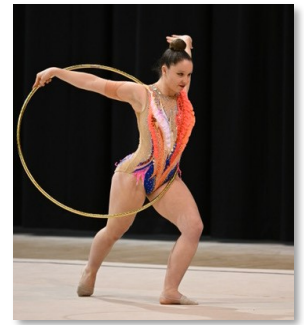
Congratulations to the team who won the Hamill Shield at the Rotorua John Paul College shoot recently for the top secondary school team.

Sports @ HPC

Alysha Read returned from the New Zealand Gymnastics Nationals in Invercargill with a 2nd place in Hoop, 2nd in Ribbon, 3rd in Clubs and 2nd Overall in Level 10.

Alysha then qualified for the Senior International Hoop and Ribbon final where she came 4th competing against Havana and Paris (our commonwealth games athletes).

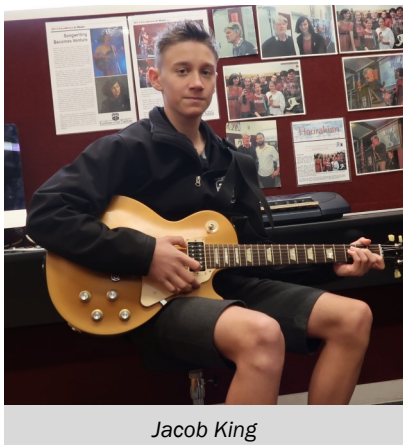
A very emotional yet rewarding end to Alysha's career. Alysha has now left HPC, having completed Level 3 to do a diving course.



Sophie Blows the Whistle

Well done to Sophie Millar who has been invited by Hockey NZ to umpire at the Federation Cup tournament this year. The Federation Cup is the top Secondary Schools Women's tournament in the country with the elite 32 school teams from all over NZ competing.

The Arts



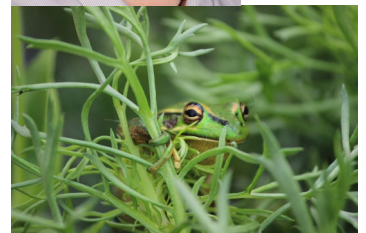
Jacob King

◀ Can You Hear Me?

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Jacob King, who made the finals for the Youth Town songwriting competition with his song "Can You Hear Me?". His success gives Jacob the opportunity to record his song in a professional studio and to participate in the creation of a national album.

National Youth Art Awards ▶

Well done to Sarah Jamieson who is in the finals of the Aotearoa National Youth Art Awards with one of her photos. Out of 295 entries she was one of the 47 finalists .



Sarah Jamieson's photo
"Frog of Prosperity"

◀ Rockquest Success

Well done to HPC students who performed successfully in the Waikato heats of the Rockquest competition with Xavier Anderson and Anna Tukuitoga in their duo "Unexpected" making a second placing in the solo / duo category. Anna also won first place for the Tangata Beats competition.



In the band section, "Crash Test Dummies" consisting of Nihindu Wickramathunga Arachchige, Joel Hunt, Matthew Tegg, Erin Aralar and Shania van Vliet are through to the regional finals.

South Auckland Performing Arts Competitions Society ▶

During the term break, two Year 13 students, Rowan Wathen and Ben Shackleton competed successfully in the South Auckland Performing Arts Competitions Society singing competitions. At both the Hamilton and Auckland events, both students came away with several awards with Ben winning the trophy for the most promising performer over all age groups and Rowan overall runner up for the championship.



Rowan Wathen (left),
Ben Shackleton (right)

Plugging the Skills Gap



Engineering students showing off the new overalls



Hospitality students making coffees



Engineering students making go-karts



Wood work



Food Technology students cooking Bolognese



Automotive students working on a car



BCT students building some cabins

Spotlight on Staff

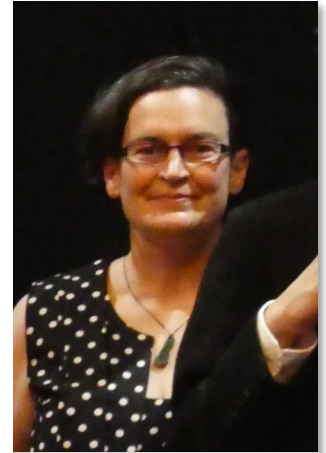
NZ Biology Olympiad

I had the privilege of leading the New Zealand Biology Olympiad team with Dr Anglea Sharples (Murupara Area School) at the 33rd International Biology Olympiad held in Yerevan, Armenia.

The NZ team competed against the top four students from 68 different countries in two extremely challenging theory exams and a range of practical tasks from determining the activity of alcohol dehydrogenase, to assessing plant vulnerability to climate change, bioinformatics, and the biosystematics of Armenian freshwater fishes.

In addition to competing on the world stage, we were able to explore Rome, the Vatican City, and Yerevan, as well as learn a little Armenian dancing. The chance to meet students, coaches and translators from around the globe, share their enthusiasm for Biology, form professional networks in Science, and laugh across language boundaries has been life-changing for the students and for me.

Michelle Isbister (Science Teacher HPC)



Michelle Isbister



Rachael Clelland

School to Skies 2022

During the July school holidays I was very privileged to attend the School to Skies Year 13 Wahine 2022 residential programme at Base Auckland in Whenuapai. The programme has been developed by the Royal New Zealand Airforce (RNZAF) and helps female students utilise their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills like never before. Students also get to know

more about career possibilities that might await them in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), particularly in the airforce. 30 students from all over Aotearoa New Zealand were selected from around 300 applicants.

It was an immersive experience with all teachers and students spending a week in uniform comprising a flight suit, affectionately known as zoomies, and an airforce cap. Students and teachers were divided into four flights. I was in Flight Hercules with five other teachers and two Core Education facilitators. Each flight was assigned a Flight Commander and, as Base Auckland is an operational working base, we were escorted everywhere at all times by our Flight Commanders.

We resided in barracks and learned how to be on parade (ready to go) five minutes ahead of scheduled times. Eating in the mess was a memorable experience with three nutritious and generous meals a day. Although some of us had to learn how to eat faster!

We were all surprised at how many occupations there are in the NZDF, with over 103 different employment roles. We were exposed to a large range of Airforce trades, with 'trades' being the term used to describe the different jobs within the airforce, rather than perhaps the more common use of 'trade' to describe plumbing or electrical or carpentry. We observed wahine from all walks of life working in their respective trades.

The activities I participated in included:

- Team building
- Reattaching the vertical stabiliser on a Grumman aircraft
- Flying in an aviation simulator, taking off and landing a Hercules at Las Vegas airport with No. 40 Squadron co-pilots
- Experiencing an actual flight on a Hercules and approaching the open rear exit during flight
- Hearing about missions providing humanitarian support
- Planning a search and rescue mission alongside No. 5 Squadron experts
- Building circuits using breadboards and wires as a way of experiencing avionics
- Investigating how non-destructive testing is used to identify impairments in parts
- Learning how precision machinery is used to design and craft replacement parts
- Standing at ease, at squad and at attention
- Hearing from Youth Development personnel
- Learning the 5 S's and 1 M of security and surveillance, applying camo paint then using our new knowledge to surveil an area
- A graduation ceremony acknowledging the grit and resilience the students all demonstrated during the course of the week.

For Year 12 wahine who are considering a NZDF career, either Airforce or Navy, they can apply to School to Skies here :

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/programmes-and-resources/school-to-skies/>

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/programmes-and-resources/school-to-seas/>

Rachael Clelland (Science Teacher HPC)

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