

Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



School Spirit Day

This year as year 13's, we were responsible for organising the school Spirit Day and ensuring the afternoon was fun for everyone.

Time went into planning our costumes and determining what activities we wanted to run. In total, there were nine rotations. These included the water slide, noodle fight, sponge race, tug of war, an obstacle course, speed ball, dodgeball, popping balloon tag and rob the nest.

Running the activities forced us to get out of our comfort zones, enjoy the day and act as role models for all other students. My group dressed up as fairies, and it was fun to encourage each year group to get involved through something a little different to the typical school day.

Overall it was an enjoyable way to end the practice exam week.

Alesha-Ann De Penning (Student)



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 2 Nov

Last day for non-exam senior students

Friday 4 Nov

Senior Academic Prizegiving 5.30pm
Last day for all senior students

Monday 7 Nov

NCEA exams start

Friday 11 Nov

Teacher only day

Thursday 1 Dec

Year 10 Prizegiving 9.30am

Friday 2 Dec

Year 8 Big Day Out

Tuesday 6 Dec

Year 9 Prizegiving 9.30am

More Than A School



Hauraki Plains College

Principal's Comment



Innovation is a single word that captures everything that is exciting in any endeavour - a goal to shoot for because it means you are different, your ideas are new and your game plan will take you ahead of the pack. Innovation in education is stepping outside the box, challenging old ways of doing things and ensuring the school experience is fit for purpose for the world outside of school gates.

Ahead of schools over the next 3 to 5 years is curriculum innovation at a pace and scale, unheard of previously. These include:

- Equity for Mātauranga Māori (ie Māori knowledge, values, perspectives, traditions) within all learning areas.
- The introduction and inclusion of new Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content within the refreshed Social Sciences learning area.
- All learning areas at Years 9 and 10 at Junior level to be 'refreshed' both in terms of content including a *Know, Understand and Do* framework. Some of these refreshed learning areas contain controversial topics around gender and critical race theories.
- The introduction of literacy and numeracy external assessments (exams) which will test the readiness of students for the workplace and further study. Without achieving the literacy and numeracy standards, students are unable to achieve any school qualifications.

There is a saying: *Butterflies cover more territory, but bees gather*

more honey. When we consider the massive changes ahead for what is being taught in school, one has to wonder whether we are becoming butterflies rather than bees, fluttering from initiative to another without really accomplishing the work we must urgently address - the ability of our young people to be able to read, write and do basic number problems to function adequately both at school and in the world beyond.

If one goes back some decades, when highly innovative methods were brought in to teach literacy and numeracy, the outcomes have been disastrous. From pilot testing, around 40% of students at Year 10 fail to meet the basic literacy and numeracy standards. Phonetics and times tables might be old school but they worked!

In order to lean into the challenge of ensuring all of our students are able to function with basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, we are setting up a Foundational Studies team who are working together to address the learning needs of those students, who have come through the system lacking in the 3 R's. This will be initially for Years 9 and 10 but the intention is to expand to Year 11 when students face literacy and numeracy exams as a newly introduced co-requisite for achieving NCEA qualifications. A return to phonetics and basic times tables will no doubt be up front and centre.

In a world where innovation is highly prized, old school is becoming the new cool.

Ngaire Harris
(PRINCIPAL)

The new Board of Trustees is hosting a meeting with parents and whānau in Term one 2023 where the focus will be on curriculum developments.

Board of Trustees Update



Hello. Your new Board of trustees are: Carl Van Hellemond (Chair); Tim Williams (Deputy); Steve Morrison; Matt Reichenbach; Kirsty Petersen, Doug Creswell (staff rep) and Marcus Bennett (student rep).

We held our first meeting as a new Board on 29 September. I was impressed with the quality and quantity of the preparation that went into our introduction and information packs. This should allow us to get up to speed pretty quickly. The

professionalism of the reporting such as the principal's, financial, property and HR reports should allow for efficient board meetings. Three quarters of the way through the year and it's pleasing to see the school looks like it will stay within its financial budget. There are a number of big and small building projects under different stages of construction and planning at the moment; Including a new deck for the Nelson Block which students are constructing, refurbishing the staffroom, and redesigning the toilet block.

Over the holidays, the Board appointed a new Deputy Principal, following Mr Inia Daymond stepping down from this role at the end of Term 2. Congratulations to Alissa Place who will begin this role from 2023.

The Board signed off on an agreement with Mary Hayward, who

attended Ngatea District High School (now HPC) for the safe keeping and display of her blazers from the time when she represented NZ in both the Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games.

The Board also signed off on the naming of the Number one Rugby field to be called the Norman Pratt field in honour of his 20 year service to HPC as Deputy and then Principal, during which time he coached the First XV and still holds the provincial record for the most number of wins in a row (twelve in all) in a provincial secondary competition (Thames Valley Secondary Schools First XV Coulter Cup). The board is actively seeking further nominations for the naming of further fields.

The Board is required to review the following policies in Term 4:

- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Alcohol, Drugs and Other Harmful Substances
- Digital Technology and Cybersafety
- School Bus Transport
- Swimming off site

These policies and feedback can be found on the *SchoolDocs* website www.schooldocs.co.nz/Home/SchoolLogin
Community Username: haurakiplains
Community Password: haurakidocs

Regards,
Carl Van Hellemond (BOARD CHAIR)

Year 13 Great Barrier Camp



Fifteen unsuspecting Year 12 and 13s go to Great Barrier Island for 6 days. What possibly could go wrong?

Not a lot actually. No broken bones, no head injuries, no lost teeth; just one stolen bible, a few missing socks and several sunburnt faces. Is it surprising that no one required medical attention? Yes, yes it is, considering the activities consisted of abseiling, kayaking, coastering, rock climbing, hiking and the most dangerous of all: aggressively competitive rounds of cards and monopoly deal.

It is safe to say that we were all pushed out of our comfort zone at one point or another. For some, it was jumping off a not-so-high rock, for others, it was using a not-so-nice-smelling long drop. But we did it all in high spirits and supported each other along the way. How do I know this? Because no one “fell” off a cliff.

Overall I'd call it a very successful trip, a solid 9.9 out of 10. (The long drop is responsible for it not getting a 10). Also, props to Miss Penney and Miss Fisher for keeping us under control. You deserved a week off after that.

Rose Macready (Year 13 Student)



YES Waikato Regional Finalists

Two of HPC's Year 13 Business Studies teams have been selected to participate in the Young Enterprise Regional Awards for the Waikato / King Country Region. A total of six teams will be competing to represent our region in the Nationals Award which will take place in November in Wellington. The chosen teams completed 4 challenges during the year related to planning and running their businesses while completing two internal Achievement Standards.

Love Eco has developed a Dish Bomb which are hand made from natural ingredients (<https://love-eco.mystorbie.com/>) and Wheelie Tyred has manufactured and sold Ottomans produced using recycled tyres (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNfD6s6n6lhWexBO97FM4NSe4AbGvhUhuehQvd_WSSXOyJiQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0).

Both teams will be delivering a five minute presentation to a panel of local business people at Wintec in Hamilton. They will be evaluated based on three criterions:

- 1- Innovation / Sustainability of the product being sold
- 2- The financial viability of their business
- 3- Delivery of the pitch



Wheelie Tyred: L-R: Libby Hughes, Jake Merchant, Hunter Crowe, John Tate (Teacher), Anthony Barker.



Love Eco: L-R: Amber-Leigh Williamson, Toni Taylor, Jessica Brown, Alesha-Ann De Penning, Kayley Gibberd.

Cultural Arts Awards 2022

The presentation of awards and performances by students came together at the Cultural Awards evening held at the end of Term 3 where the audience was entertained by a range of items including Kapa Haka, 48 Hour short films, solo and group dance performances, and musical performances from our Jazz Band, and senior rock bands. Congratulations to students who were recognised for their efforts and success at this evening.

Junior Merit:

Jacob King's Merit award was given for his achievement in making the top 20 in New Zealand, from hundreds of entries, for the Youthtown Songwriting competition. An impressive achievement for a Year 9 student. Jacob's musical and singing abilities have been honed through hours of practice and we are excited to see him develop his talents over the next four years at HPC.



Jacob King



Rose Macready

Cultural Service Blue:

Rose Macready led this year's Showquest production; utilising her impressive creative and collaborative skills in bringing together a diverse group of performers for a cohesive and entertaining performance. In her role as one of the Cultural and Arts leaders, Rose has been a champion for the performing arts, highlighting their importance for the wellbeing of our students.



Anna Tukuitoga

Cultural Blue:

Cultural Blue's are for outstanding contribution or performance at a senior level and can be awarded only once. Anna Tukuitoga is a current Blue holder for her outstanding success as a country music singer.

Rowan's achievements are across a range of the performing arts including significant success in regional competitions. His singing, dancing, acting and musical abilities have been developed through complete dedication to his craft, and make him one to watch in the future. Congratulations Rowan.



Rowan Wathen

Amalea Mikhailiadis-White is recognised for her success at the Auckland regional Dance NZ Made competition, in which Amalea was runner-up in the Year 12 category. In her recent dance exams with Steward Dance Studios, Amalea was awarded Most Promising trophy for Level 6 Contemporary, the Most Promising trophy for Elementary Jazz and a Merit award for Level 7 Hip Hop, the highest award possible at that level. She recently received an NZAMD scholarship to fly to Wellington to participate in a master class workshop for Hip Hop.



Xavier Anderson

Xavier Anderson, with Anna Tukuitoga, was awarded 2nd place at the Waikato Rockquest regional competition in the solo/duo category. He is a talented guitarist.

The Rhodes Green Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to the Cultural Arts 2023:

Amalea Mikhailiadis-White

This year's recipient has been involved in a wide range of Arts activities at our school. In each area she has distinguished herself by performing to a very high standard, whether this be Showquest, Choir, Dance NZ Made, the Unplugged Concert or her numerous achievements in dance and singing outside of school. Academically she has excelled in Arts-based subjects such as Drama, Dance, Visual Art, Music and Filmmaking; a true Arts all rounder. But underneath all her success is a strong work ethic, a humble attitude, and a true sense that there is immense joy in being her best creative self.



Cultural Arts Awards 2022



Winter Sports Roundup

1st XV Counties-Manukau Season

The First XV Boys Rugby season started with controversy when the call was made to shift to the Counties-Manukau Premier Competition. While HPC voted against it, the Thames Valley made the decision to allow students who had left school to be available to play First XV rugby in the local competition. The HPC Sports Executive took the stance that this compromised the integrity of a First XV secondary school competition and dilutes the meaning of being in a First XV as the pinnacle of secondary school rugby. The concern around the control of the school managing after match behaviours such as smoking and alcohol was a further factor in this decision as was the reduction of the Valley secondary competition to just 10 weeks of rugby.

With the semis and finals coming at the end of Term 2, this unfortunately meant that our First XV had to pull out of the annual fixture against Mahurangi College - a break in a long standing tradition. Previous coaches note that in the past, HPC has been able to participate in Waikato competitions and return for the Coulter Cup round. Again, the reduction to a one term competition, meant this was not possible.

After the initial uncertainty and attention given to this decision, both parents and players showed support and commitment for the change and found the competition to be well organised, with qualified referees for each game and a range of experiences with 8 teams in the competition. The team went through the league unbeaten and enjoyed playing against new schools with different cultures and playing styles.

Following on from the League games, the HPC team qualified to play a



home semifinal with a win against Waiuku College to progress to the grand final against a 1st XV Tuakau College combined with Onewhero Area school. The final was hosted at the Navigation Homes Stadium in Pukekohe where Counties Manukau organised an amazing day with a huge turn out of support for both playing teams. The final turned into a nail biter to the end with the South Auckland team taking out the win.

Co-Captain, Hunter Crowe, enjoyed the experience. "At first we thought it was a big ask to take on South Auckland teams, but as we progressed, we realised we were up for the challenge. The change of competition meant that we were up against a very different style of rugby but something that was beneficial for us as players as we adjusted and developed our own skill level."

Herman Harmzen / Pieter Aucamp (Coaches)

Winter Sports Round-up



1st XV Girls Rugby

This year's TVSS Girls Rugby 1st XV competition consisted of four teams: Mercury Bay, Whangamata, Paeroa and HPC. This year the girls had their best season in some years, playing six games with a semi-final win against Paeroa College and an impressive win 42 - 12 against Mercury Bay Area School, the first time HPC had beaten Mercury Bay in a number of years.

"It was such a team effort with the forwards doing the hard mahi up front, keeping possession of the ball and making good metres and the backs scoring out wide and tackling everyone that ran at them. Playing good structured rugby, it is really pleasing to have had a successful season as the girls have found it tough going over the last two or three years, always the smaller and more inexperienced girls," said coach Angela Forsyth.

"This year we had 25 in our squad who ranged from Year 9 - Year 13 girls so just shows the keenness, growth and fun these girls are having playing rugby. They were well led by co-captains Alice Hill and Juanne Finau. The team are also very lucky to have a big coaching and management team and such a positive whanau support of the girls. This energy has also flowed onto Thames Valley age group reps with the TVSS Under 15 and Under 18 teams having about a large number of our girls play, which is great to see." *Angela Forsyth (Coach)*

College A Netball Season

College A 2022 was a team consisting of varied year levels, experience and talent. The change in the season structure saw the team of 13 playing three nights a week in various competitions against both secondary and womens teams. Having girls who play multiple codes being a part of the team this year saw the team personnel for each fixture change. This provided opportunities for a number of the girls to gain experience playing new positions creating a very versatile team.

Highlights of the season:

- Coming Runners Up in the Counties Manukau Secondary School Competition played at Bruce Pulman Park Indoor Arena
- Winning Te Kuiti Exchange
- Gaining a draw against a very strong Mahu team
- 3 wins and 1 draw played at the Pre UNISS Monday Competition in Hamilton
- 4 wins and 1 draw at UNISS in Auckland



A number of girls went on to play Representative Level with Riana Brewer named to attend the Magic in the Making Development Day in Hamilton. Like any team we experienced some lows throughout this season but also a number of highs and was an overall great season. *Toni Brewer / Tania Pettifer (Coach)*



Senior Boys Basketball

This year HPC Senior Boys team played in the TVSS competition. We had a mixed season with some great wins and tough losses. We also had a change of coach midseason but the boys took this in their stride and continued to play their best.

The highlights for the season was making the semi finals in which we placed 3rd and the camaraderie in the team.

We also had two great exchanges with Mahurangi and Te Kuiti. Having Mahurangi boys billeted with our boys was another highlight. Friends were reunited from previous years exchanges and new friendships made.

Third was an excellent result for a young team that included six Year 11's and one Year 10 player. Two players played representative basketball;

Sebastian Dowd represented Thames Valley 17 and under at the Mel Young Easter tournament and Noah Williams represented Franklin BB in the 15 and under New Zealand Nationals Tournament.

This season was the last for our only year 13 Devin Vitasovich. His enthusiasm for HPC basketball will be missed. Thank you Dev for your encouragement and support on and off the court. *Tim Williams (Coach)*

Winter Sports Round-up



Senior Girls Basketball

The senior girls basketball team for 2022 had an amazing season and were looking for some normality after a few years of covid disruption. We were looking to take out the Thames Valley comp this year and although we made the finals, we lost to Paeroa in a hard fought final. The season. We started the season well and we made the finals but lost to Paeroa (score) after a hard fought battle.

During term 3, we went to tournament week held in Rotorua and placed in the top 6, which meant that we qualified for Secondary Schools Nationals. We came up against some of the best teams in New Zealand and placed 20th. We were really proud of our efforts.

A big thank you to our coach Malcolm who has coached for the past several years and is now stepping back from the coaching role. Also thanks to our support crew:

Rachel and Ali, our managers, and all the parents who came and supported the team. *Ania Ballantine and Molly Maitland (players)*

First X1 Football

Congratulations to our 1st XI Boys and Girls Football teams who both won their respective divisions in the Waikato Secondary Schools Football Competition. The 1st XI Girls took out the Division 3 competition with a game to spare, five points ahead of second placed Waikato Diocesan 2nd XI. They also recorded the most goals scored (54) and least goals conceded (15) in this division.

The 1st XI Boys won the Division 4 competition in an unbeaten league season, eight points clear of second placed Fraser High School 1st XI. They were also dominant in attack and on defence, scoring at a rate of 6.5 goals per game, while conceding less than one goal per game. *Jonathan O'Neill (coach)*



Hockey 1st XI Boys

The main challenge we faced as a team was stepping up to A grade with a large part of our team being new to the first XI, however despite this major challenge our team fought every game to the end and the players were open to learn new skills and give their best efforts in trainings and games.

The highlights for the season was competing and even getting a win in the A grade comp before placing 5th in tournament week, there is a great deal of effort and dedication required to compete with the teams that we faced in these competitions and the boys delivered. It was also great to see the team enjoying the tournament with all the awesome activities we were able to do thanks to our sponsors. After the last couple years missing out on tournament week it was awesome for the team to take the opportunity, work hard and play hard the whole season.

The season wouldn't have been possible without everyone's input for the team, the players always giving it their all, Jason coaching the boys and Suri always making sure everything was organized every week. We thank everyone for their support throughout the whole season. *Mitchell Williams (1st XI boys player)*



Hockey 1st XI Girls

For the HPC 1st XI Girls Hockey team, the 2022 season was one in which we went from competing and winning in the Waikato Secondary Schools Girls B Grade comp to learning what it is to be one of the bottom of the pack when we moved into the A Grade competition this year. We set goals at the beginning of each game and focused on the small wins which developed our team in a way we could not have done without the tough competition we faced each week.



Tournament week was a great experience after COVID disappointments in the last two years. We fought hard to get points on the table and in our last game which we won it really showed. It was smiles all round. With so many young players in the team, they are definitely going to be a team to watch through the next few years. *KJ Harrison (1st XI girls player)*

Howard John Maskell

23 December 1946 - 19 September 2022

As a school community, we acknowledge the recent passing of former HPC teacher, Howard Maskell. Mr Maskell taught at Hauraki Plains College for 31 years, joining the staff from Thames High for a promotion as Head of Social Studies, Geography and History in 1982. His referee report at the time described him as “A young man of tidy appearance, and considerable presence. He is at ease in social situations and is utterly reliable, with a quiet determination and a well handled sense of ambition. He is very energetic and efficient, with a clear sense of purpose and loyalty. In all that he undertakes, the needs of the pupils and the morale of staff he works with are paramount. He is open minded, co-operative, very fair and easy in his relationships with people but he can be firm, when required and has a well developed sense of humour.” All of that was true of Howard and we would add, he was also incredibly well respected as a professional and loved as a person.



As a Curriculum Leader, Howard was part of a Hauraki team which “got stuff done.” He will be remembered for his enthusiasm for camps and outdoor experiences relating to his particular passion Geography particularly the Tongariro trips. Additional responsibilities including Deaning; he introduced HPC to the new world of computers and audio visual teaching. With regard to this, in 1996 he won a Woolf Fisher Award to study the use of Information Technology in Australian schools. Howard also coached and was the main stay of football for many years. He would be chuffed to think that there are now more football than rugby teams at HPC.

When the news of Howard’s passing was put up on the school website, on the Haurakian page, there were literally hundreds of his previous colleagues and past students who wrote messages about Howard.

These are just a few:

- A very genuine nice guy.
- Mr Maskell was my favourite any most inspirational teacher back in 1994, I loved Geography because of this.
- A true gentleman and an exceptional teacher.
- A wonderful teacher with a great sense of humour.
- He was an awesome, caring and memorable teacher aka Poppa Smurf. Always remember that Geography camp when he told us girls to use margarine if we were suffering from chaffing!
- Mr Maskell was my favourite and most inspirational teacher.

Howard went from full time teaching to part time work in 2005 and left HPC in 2013 after an outstanding 31 years of service.

As one previous student wrote: Rest in peace, Mr Maskell. You were a true legend.

Matariki Tu Rakau Award



Congratulations to HPC Staff member **Logan Taylor** who was recently awarded with a Matariki Tu Rakau award. The Matariki Tu Rakau Programme led by Te Uru Rakau NZ Forest Service, honours great New Zealanders. It is also part of the Government’s One Billion Trees programme. Logan was nominated by the school for his sterling work in the local community, more particularly in recent years with establishing and maintaining the Hayward Farm as an educational site. Well deserved, Mr Taylor!

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