

HPC e-Bulletin

Friday 29 August 2025



Kia ora koutou and welcome to week seven of Term Three.

Tournament Week

Well done to our six sports teams away at Tournaments this week. Updates at the time of writing the bulletin are:

Girls Football 1st XI, Grant Jarvis Competition, Hamilton

Up-to-date result: Finished 8th overall.

Check out the Girls Football 1st XI win vs Linfield High School (ranked #4) - penalty shootout, shot by Emma Joll. [An awesome moment captured on video](#)

Senior Girls Basketball, Northern Cup, Auckland

Up-to-date result: Won their final and finished 7th overall.

College A Netball, Upper North Island, Auckland

Up-to-date result: Won their C Grade final by 1 point today and move up to B Grade.

Equestrian Team, NISS Champs, Taupō

Up-to-date result: *Will update next week*

Boys U15 League Team, NZRL U15 Boys Carnival, Auckland

Up-to-date result: *Will update next week*

Girls 1st XI Hockey Team, Chica Gilmer Trophy, Mount Manganui

Up-to-date result: *Will update next week*

Boys 1st XI Hockey Team, Mayill Cup, Auckland

Up-to-date result: Top 4 - Lost final today finishing 4th overall.

Cultural Visit from Korea

We recently had the pleasure of hosting a group of students from Korea for a three-week cultural visit. The focus of their stay was to build connections with our students, experience the New Zealand school system, and be introduced to Māori language and culture.

During this time, these 30 students stayed with homestay families across our wider community, giving them a true taste of life in New Zealand. They fully engaged with our school and community, being paired with HPC buddies, embracing the opportunity to learn and connect.

We are proud to offer such enriching cultural experiences to our international visitors and look forward to keeping in touch in the future.



Farewell to Emiri Oba, our international student from Japan

We recently had the wonderful opportunity to host Emiri Oba, a visiting student from Japan, for a three-week Primary Industries experience. Emiri came with the goal of gaining as much hands-on farming knowledge as possible, and we were proud to provide her with the perfect environment to do just that.



During her time at HPC, Emiri fully embraced life on the school farm and enjoyed participating in her agricultural subjects. Reflecting on her experience, she shared: *"I loved putting on my gumboots to do my agricultural subjects on the school farm. My homestay family were very kind and took me to see places. They made me feel very welcome, and I spent a lot of time with my homestay sister at school. I enjoyed being at HPC."*

We're grateful to have had Emiri as part of our school community and wish her all the best in her future studies!

CAA (Common Assessment Activity a.k.a. Lit/Num exam) Dates

The CAA exams will be administered next week starting on Monday 1-3 September. Most Year 10 students and a number of Year 11s and 12s will be involved with these. Students have been issued with timetables. They need to catch up with Mr Jaco Dreyer if they have any questions. Students bringing their own devices to use for the CAAs must ensure that they have at least 2 hours of battery time.

To use the text-to-speech function in the Writing and Numeracy exams, students are allowed to use head phones/ear buds - the need to ensure it is compatible with their device/school Chromebook. For the Numeracy exam students can use a calculator - it is preferable for students to have their own, because we don't have enough calculators to lend out.

Year 8 school visits are underway

Over the next few weeks, we will head out to all of our local primary schools with our Principal, the 2026 Year 9 Dean, Gemma Fisher, and HPC students who are former students of those schools.

This week we visited both Turua School and Ōrere School. The staff and students at Turua School were very impressed to see Year 9 student Awa Hay in our promotional video, as she is from Turua, and they enjoyed reconnecting with Year 12 student Benjamin Martin. Year 11 student Luqmaan



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Hussain joined us at Ōrere School, where his siblings still attend, and he posed for a picture next to a self-portrait he created when he was a student there!

Dental Truck

The Tooth Group will be returning from next week (weeks 8-9).

HPC Sports Page

Did you know we have a dedicated page for all things sport at Hauraki Plains College? The page is designed not only for current students and whānau, but also for anyone who wants to stay connected with our sporting successes. It's the place to find updates, photos, and celebrations of our students' sporting achievements. <https://www.facebook.com/HPCSports>

Please participate in the Board elections - Low numbers voted so far. Parents have been emailed with their invitation to vote in our Board Elections. This is your chance to vote for your parent representative. Voting closes 8th Sept.

2026 Senior Subject Selection

Many students have already completed their subject selections for 2026. Current Year 10, 11 and 12 students must make their selections by next Friday, 5 September. A link to access the Schoolbridge website for subject selection has been posted to each year level Google Classroom. If you have any questions about subject selection please contact our curriculum leaders:

Arts

Mrs Jacqui-May Allison-Dodds:

jacqui-maya@haurakiplains.school.nz

Business Studies and Primary Industries

Mr John Tate: johnt@haurakiplains.school.nz

English

Mrs Nicolette Banwell: nicoletteb@haurakiplains.school.nz

Health and PE

Mr Nick Joyes: nickj@haurakiplains.school.nz

Mathematics

Mr Peter McGregor: peterm@haurakiplains.school.nz

Science

Mr John Alois: johna@haurakiplains.school.nz

Humanities

Mr Rich Entwistle: riche@haurakiplains.school.nz

Technologies

Mr Kyle Backhouse-Smith: kyleb@haurakiplains.school.nz

Te Reo Māori :

Matua Normie Anderson: normiea@haurakiplains.school.nz

Waste Audit

With the support of Kate Whitton, the Waste Minimisation Officer at Hauraki District Council and Ian Clark, our wonderful caretaker. This audit was led by Ruby McKay, our Student Environmental Council Leader, as we conducted the most comprehensive waste survey



ever done at HPC to learn what items we send to landfill and which areas of the school generate what type and volume of waste. Every indoor and outdoor space on the school grounds had its rubbish collected over two days, and sorted by over 50 students in a fast-paced session the following morning. The results will inform our ongoing efforts in waste and recycling management.


Pare Hauraki Native Nursery Visit

Horticulture and Environmental Studies students had an exciting visit to Pare Hauraki Native Nursery in Thames. During our visit, led by Jamie Nisbet, he shared the incredible story of this iwi-led initiative and its sustainable practices, including eco-sourcing local seeds from mature forests to grow all their plants, which they sell and plant across our region. Our students demonstrated whanaungatanga by gifting their time to help propagate plants before heading back to HPC. Students found this visit inspirational and informative, which will support our school efforts as we continue to grow thousands of native plants a year in our very own native nursery.



Services Academy 2026

Are you in Yr11 now and interested in joining the Services Academy next year? We are holding two Information Evenings on Wed 17th Sept 7-8pm and Tue 7th Oct 7-8pm.



2026 SERVICES ACADEMY

Information Evenings

WHEN
Wed 17 Sep
Tue 07 Oct
7-8pm

WHERE
Hub @ HPC

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

ATTENDANCE
Attendance at *one* of the two information evenings is compulsory. Parents / Caregivers are encouraged to attend.

APPLICATIONS OPEN & CLOSE
Open Tue 07 Oct @ 8pm
Close Wed 08 Oct @ 6pm

INTERVIEWS
9, 10, 13, 14 Oct during school hours. Parents / Caregivers welcome.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE
Wed 15 Oct (by 5pm)

POC:
Paul Dodds
Services Academy Director
pauld@haurakiplains.school.nz

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Year 8 Parent Evenings

We warmly invite ALL Year 8 parents and whānau to join us for an information evening at Hauraki Plains College as we look ahead to 2026. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our school, meet key staff, and hear about the values, programmes, and support we offer to help your child thrive in their high school journey. We look forward to welcoming you and answering any questions you may have.

- **Thursday 4 September 7-8pm**
- **Wednesday 8th October 6-7pm**

Junior & Senior Uniforms for sale - Outdated new stock that still meets uniform policy will be available for sale at a discounted price on both evenings. Uniforms will be available to purchase at the following times: Thursday 4th September 6pm - 8:30pm and Wednesday 8th October 5pm - 8pm.

Sports Fees Due Now

Students with outstanding school fees, historical and current, of \$100 or more (without a payment plan in place) will not be recognised for individual prizes at these celebrations/events:

- Sports Prizegiving
- Year 9 and 10 Prizegiving
- Senior Academic Prizegiving
- Cultural and Arts Prizegiving
- Year 13 Graduation Dinner

Please contact the office if you need to arrange a payment plan or have any questions.

Rowing

The dates for our rowing Novice camp have been set for the 21st to the 24th September. Any new rowers will be attending the camp at Mangakino from the 22nd to the 24th. This is a great opportunity for your child to give rowing a go and see. If you are interested, please email Mrs Amanda Sayer your child's name on amandas@aurakiplains.school.nz or forms can be picked up from the student centre.

Community

Meet the Candidates for the Plains Ward on Thursday 11th September at 6pm at the Hauraki RSA - 8 Pipiroa Road Ngatea. This will be hosted by the [Hauraki Plains Community Hub](#).

Nga mihi
Sharon Moller
PRINCIPAL



Year 8 Parent Info Evening

We warmly invite all current Year 8 parents and whānau to join us for an information evening at Hauraki Plains College as we look ahead to 2026. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our school, meet key staff, hear about our values, programmes, and support we offer.

Thurs 4th Sept 7-8pm
Wed 8th Oct 6-7pm
in the School Hall.



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Some more photos with our exchange students



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HPC Upcoming Dates Term 3

Day/Wk	Week 8 - Week commencing 1st Sept		Week 9 - Week commencing 8th Sept	
Monday	1	CAA Exams Services Academy Rotorua Dental Van onsite Student Board nominations close	8	120TE Bush survival Dental Van onsite
Tuesday	2	CAA Exams Services Academy Rotorua TVSS Rippa Rugby Tournament Dental Van onsite	9	Senior Practice Exams Dental Van onsite
Wednesday	3	CAA Exams 6.30 pm Senior Dance Evening Services Academy Rotorua Dental Van onsite	10	Senior Practice Exams Dental Van onsite
Thursday	4	Year 8 Parent Event 7.00pm Conservation Week Event Services Academy Rotorua Dental Van onsite	11	Senior Practice Exams Dental Van onsite
Friday	5	Services Academy Rotorua Last official Learning Lab Dental Van onsite	12	Dental Van onsite Learning Lab: Sports/Hapu Challenge
Sat	6	Hauraki Spring Ball, Ngatea Hall		

Careers Corner

Future Forward Careers

This week we welcomed [Whakapiki Ake](#) from the University of Auckland to work with our rangatahi Māori. They specialise in early exposure to STEM careers and were delighted with the engagement of our students. Tumeke!

The future of fashion was on the minds of senior textile students as they visited New Zealand Fashion Week and the DIVA exhibition at Auckland War Memorial Museum. [A stunning display of garments](#) reminded us all that clothing expresses connections to culture.

Gateway Applications

To make an application to be a part of any of the Gateway programmes, you need to come to the careers centre and speak with Mrs Scott. You will need to complete a Gateway application form. Gateway is available to students in Years 11-13.

Gateway and WINTEC are additional opt-in programmes - you choose them AS WELL AS your subject selections.

WINTEC applications will not open until the start of Term 4, so please go ahead and make your subject selection choices first.

Subject Selections

If you are not sure what you should be selecting for your future

career pathway, try using the careers website - Tahatū. You can look up jobs, qualifications and study pathways.

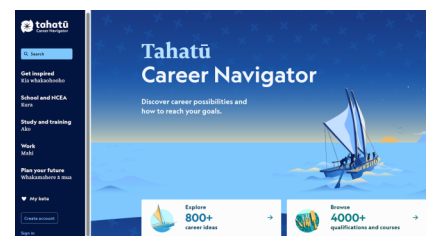
Here's a How to" reminder:

1. Log in to Tahatū - our career database- and make an account using your school email. From here you can take the "Get inspired" quiz which will suggest some pathways that line up with your interests and what subjects to take.

[Link to instructions](#)

All students should make sure that they can login to Career Central and update their profiles.

[Link to instructions for How to access Career Central.](#)



University Visits

Both AUT and University of Auckland host their open days on Saturday 30th August. On Wednesday 1st September University of Victoria Wellington will be in school from 9:00-10:00.

Please contact Mrs Lawlor pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz for any queries for career events.

2025 HPC Candidate Statements

Parent Representative Election



This is your chance to vote for your parent representative. Check your spam folder if you haven't received it.
Voting closes 8th Sept

Sallie Norman

Kia ora, My name is Sallie Norman and I am currently serving as a co-opted member of the Hauraki Plains College Board. It has been a privilege to contribute in this role, and I am now seeking your support to continue as an elected board member.

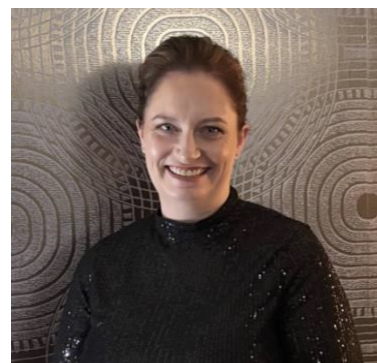
I am a proud parent of three children – my son is currently in Year 10 at Hauraki, my daughter is in Year 8 and will be joining the college next year, and my youngest son is in Year 4 at primary school. As a parent, I am passionate about supporting the school environment where our tamariki thrive – academically, socially and personally.

I grew up on a dairy farm in rural Northland, which instilled in me a strong work ethic, community values, and a hands-on approach to challenges. I now bring those same values to both my business and governance roles. I am the director of three businesses – Drainage TV, Mad Dog Backdrops, and Neon Design. Through these ventures, I have gained extensive experience in leadership, strategic planning, financial management and creative problem solving.

Serving on the board has been a rewarding experience. I have enjoyed learning more about the inner workings of the college and contributing to important discussions around student achievement, wellbeing, property, and governance. I believe in a forward-thinking and inclusive approach, ensuring every student is given the opportunity to succeed and feel supported during their time at Hauraki.

I'm a strong communicator, an active listener, and someone who values collaboration between whānau, staff and the wider community. I am committed to upholding the vision and values of the college and helping shape a positive and progressive future for all students. Thank you for considering me for this important role. I would be honoured to continue serving our school community.

Ngā mihi nui, Sallie Norman



Audra Thackwray

Kia ora koutou, My name is Audra Thackwray and I am proud to be part of the Hauraki Plains College community. I have a daughter currently in Year 9 at HPC and two children in Year 5 at Ngatea Primary School.

I am passionate about education and student wellbeing, and I bring both experience and commitment to this role. I work at a primary school in Hamilton, where I serve as the Board Secretary as part of my role. In addition to this, I have previously been a parent representative on a school board, giving me a strong understanding of governance responsibilities and the importance of collaborative decision-making.

With a background in finance, I am confident I can contribute constructively to the board's strategic and financial oversight. I would welcome the opportunity to support the ongoing success of Hauraki Plains College and help ensure a positive, thriving learning environment for all students.

Ngā mihi, Audra Thackwray



2025 HPC Candidate Statements

Parent Representative Election



Paul Taylor

I am pleased to stand for election to the Board of Trustees at Hauraki Plains College, where I have served as a co-opted member since June 2024. As both a parent of two current HPC students (Year 9 and Year 11), and an experienced educator, I am deeply committed to supporting the school's continued growth and success.

With over 25 years in education, including 16 years in special education, I bring experience in inclusive practice, and student wellbeing. I began my career teaching in primary schools across New Zealand and internationally, before spending over a decade at Kelston Deaf Education Centre (now Ko Taku Reo), where I supported deaf and hard of hearing students and worked alongside mainstream teachers to create inclusive learning environments.

Since 2022, I have been Deputy Principal at Rosehill School, a specialist education setting. My leadership has focused on improving outcomes for neurodiverse learners and fostering a school culture that values equity, diversity, and holistic development. I also hold a postgraduate qualification in Special Education and have led initiatives in partnership with CLM to promote healthy, active lifestyles among students.

My time on the Hauraki Plains College Board has given me valuable insight into the school's strategic direction and the importance of strong governance. I believe my professional background, leadership experience, and passion for inclusive education align closely with the college's values and aspirations.

I am committed to ensuring that all tamariki have access to a high-quality education that supports their unique strengths and needs. It would be a privilege to continue contributing to the Board and supporting the college in delivering positive outcomes for all learners.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving the Hauraki Plains College community.



Kirsty Petersen

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board for the past three years. As an existing board member, I bring a sound understanding of governance, and I'm proud to have contributed to the strategic direction and future planning of our school. I am now seeking re-election to continue that work and ensure continuity and stability across board terms.

Professionally, I have over a decade of experience in Human Resource Management and advocacy, and I use these skills to help ensure that decisions made around the board table are well-considered, people-centred, and aligned with best practice.

My husband and I have lived in the Hauraki Plains area since 2019. We own a home and a local business and are deeply committed to this community. With our eldest son having attended HPC until he went to university earlier this year and our youngest son currently in Year 11, I feel I have a good perspective on the student journey and the challenges being faced by youth today.

As a parent representative, I believe strongly in the importance of listening to and reflecting the voices of our wider school community even where these differ from my own. I value the customs and culture of Hauraki, including the heritage of tāngata whenua, and believe in the importance of a broad curriculum that supports diverse strengths and the ambitions of all learners.

I would be honoured to continue contributing to the governance of Hauraki Plains College, supporting both continuity and progress as we navigate the years ahead.



2025 HPC Candidate Statements

Parent Representative Election



Jaspreet Kaur CA

Kia ora, Hello and Sat Shri Akal,

My name is Jaspreet Kaur, and I'm honoured to stand for election to the Hauraki Plains College Board. Since 2024, I've had the privilege of serving as a co-opted board member and would now be grateful for your support to continue contributing in an elected role.

I bring over 13 years of experience as Finance Manager at CAPS Hauraki, a community-based social services organisation supporting tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau across our region. I also manage our family-run business, Thames Taxis, which provides essential transport services throughout Hauraki and Coromandel. These roles have given me strong governance, financial, and leadership skills—essential for effective decision-making at board level.

I'm a proud mum of two boys—Jorawer Singh Thiara, currently in Year 10 at HPC, and Nihal Singh Thiara, currently in Year 8 at Puriri School. As a parent, I care deeply about creating an inclusive, safe, and inspiring environment where all students can reach their potential—academically, socially, and emotionally.



Alongside my professional work, I am a founding member of the Chaar Sahibzaade Community Trust, where I help promote cultural connection and youth development through community initiatives. I also run weekly Punjabi language and culture classes in Thames, helping young learners embrace their heritage while thriving in Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse society.

With prior 7 years school governance experience and a strong background in community service, I bring a collaborative, future-focused, and values-led approach. I believe in supporting staff, empowering students, and building strong partnerships between school and whānau.

It would be my privilege to continue serving on the Board of Trustees and contribute to a strong, thriving future for Hauraki Plains College. Thank you for your support.

Ngā mihi, Jaspreet Kaur CA

Stephen Loft

Hi my name is Stephen Loft, I have lived in Ngatea for 11yrs but have been farming in the area for 30+yrs.

Our children have been through Hauraki Plains College and our daughter is still there. I have experience on school Boards, I'm just finishing up on the Ngatea Primary School BOT which I've been part of for the last 9yrs (6yrs as Chairman).

I've been involved with coaching and managing our kids sports teams over the years, currently managing the HPC 1st XV rugby team and Co-coaching the girls 2nd X1 Hockey.

