



# He Huarahi Tamariki

## SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 4 2019

### Re-opening of the Matai Street Complex

On the morning of Tuesday 6 August, we were joined by many He Huarahi Tamariki (HHT) supporters and previous staff and students to celebrate our long awaited building re-opening. Finally, the renovations were finished and both the He Huarahi Tamariki and KidsCount staff had done an amazing job of unpacking and setting up.

In the words of one of our students, Michael Valach, who spoke at the event, 'it feels good to be home'. Other HHT students involved in the proceedings were Hinehou Mason and Nakita Kopua who were our Kaikaranga; Nakita also said a karakia for us. In addition, we were well supported by Keta and WEGC students who responded to our Kaikaranga, led us

in waiata and performed for us after the ceremony – Ngā mihi nunui ki a koutou.

Whilst being relocated for 2 terms at Linden School was not without its challenges, there were also many benefits and we want to extend a huge 'thank you' to the staff and students for their hospitality. We will certainly miss all of the wonderful interactions we had with the students while we were there and really value the relationship we now have with our neighbours – Ka kite anō e hoa mā.

We must also acknowledge the role our students have played in ensuring the success of this process. As our Kaiārahi Paula

*(Continued on page 2)*



L-R: Paula Hay, Nakita Kopua, Peter Atkins; Tay Manuel, Michael Valach, Maria Palmer, Evie Ward & children; Keta Kaiwai-Herbert & the WEGC Kapa Haka group.

### Cultural Camp to Kāpiti Island

This year Kaitlyn and I had the privilege of receiving the Aporo Joyce Award donated by his wife Brenda. We were sponsored to go on an amazing trip to Te Waewae-Kāpiti-o-Tara-raua-ko-Rangitāne, or Kāpiti Island for short. We were with students from different parts of the Wellington region and a college from Napier. Before we left on the boat to take us to Kāpiti Island a karakia was said to Tangaroa, the God of the seas and Tāwhiri-mātea, God of the winds.

We let them know that we were about to cross the waters and asked if they could calm them so we could arrive safely. Together we learnt more about Māori tikanga and customs. We gained more knowledge about why we say a karakia (prayer) to the atua (gods) and which atua we were saying a karakia to. We did many things on the island, including a walk along a narrow path to a lookout point where we nearly fell over or off the cliff! It



L-R: Hinehou Mason & Kaitlyn Paenga

didn't help that it was raining and slippery. We learned two new waiata and made up our own actions to a song that was composed for Kāpiti about the birds and Tāne-mahuta (god of the forest).

One of the things I found very inspiring was learning about Kahe Te Rau-o-te-rangi. She had a vision of an upcoming attack while she was on Kāpiti Island so she and her infant daughter swam across a channel to warn her people. Kahe and her baby were fine and so were the people. They praised Kahe and named the channel she swam after her. I found it very brave that she did that. Another fun thing that happened was that some students went kiwi hunting which was amazing. No students were allowed to use a torch or flashlight in case the birds got scared and didn't come out. I saw one kiwi and three penguins.

It felt so good being isolated with other students learning more about Māori culture and the tangata whenua who walked this land before us, who made history for their mokopuna to learn about. This trip wouldn't have been possible if we didn't have Brenda Joyce, so together Kaitlyn



and I thank her for that. We really appreciate it and we had an amazing time making new memories and friends.

*Hinehou Mason*

## Tēnā koutou katoa

In the immortal words of Dorothy “There’s no place like home!” It has been such a blessing to be back in our own space, which is “same, but different.” While for some it might not seem like much has changed on the surface, it is great to know that there are no longer any leaks, or issues with mould and weather-tightness. We are safe, warm and dry. And happy to be home.

Being at Linden School was a great opportunity to build relationships with our neighbours, but also to reflect on what makes our place special. What makes HHT so great is that it is more than just a building – it is the people that are the most important thing in the HHT world. As the whakataukī says:

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata,  
he tāngata.

What is the most important thing in the world? It is  
people, it is people, it is people.

Term three has sped by. We sadly said farewell to some people, and greeted others. We celebrated some new babies, as well as remembered those HHT friends who have passed away. Throughout this all, we have carried on with our school work and are succeeding as individuals and as a whānau.

We are looking forward to celebrating our journey at our end of year Prizegiving on Wednesday, 4 November.

Ngā mihi nui

Paula Hay – Kaiārahi/Teacher in Charge

## Netball Tournament



This year we were invited by the Masterton TPU to attend the Lower North Island TPU netball tournament. There were teams from Upper Hutt, Masterton, Levin, Taranaki and Gisborne representing their TPU. We were invited to a pōwhiri and entertainment night the evening before the tournament, where we were given dinner and got to watch their college Poly group. We played fun games and got to interact with the other teams before fighting it out for the trophy the next day. Game day came and we had an early draw against Upper Hutt. Later came Masterton, which we looked at as our challenge and sadly lost that game. At the end of the day, we came in at third place out of the six teams. I am so very proud of my team!

Sam Beattie

## Re-opening of the Matai St Complex

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Hay commented ‘you have all amazed me with your courage and resilience’ and have ‘shown great maturity and adaptability’. The Manager from KidsCount, Lisa Jackaman, also commended the students on raising resilient children who coped with all the changes remarkably well.

The spirit of the He Huarahi Tamariki family has definitely had a role to play in all of this and this brings us back to Michael, who went on to elaborate what ‘home’ meant to him ‘...a safe haven...Somewhere that I’ve always felt supported and understood. Somewhere that my thoughts and feelings are respected and where I never have to shy away from being myself.’ And whilst these are values we take with us as a school wherever we are, it is certainly nice to be back in a refurbished building that supports us in this.

Nau mai hoki mai ki a tātou katoa!

## Staff News

In Term 2, we farewelled Justine Lee due to retirement and welcomed Han-Chung Teo as van driver. At the start of Term 3 we farewelled our administrator Victoria Cramer and welcomed Deryn Scott into the role.



Justine Lee



Han Teo  
Driver



Victoria Cramer



Deryn Scott  
Administrator

## Dawn Raids Excursion

Our trip began with a pūkeko. Flailing in pain after being hit by a vehicle ahead on Raiha St, the bird was marooned on the opposite side of the road to its flock, twitching in the gutter in a position that our van’s front wheel could not offer a swift mercy crushing. We left the dying creature to busy our minds with the racism of the 70’s over at Pātaka.

The Dawn Raids is a shameful period in New Zealand’s recent history that we are struggling to look in the eye. As a school we attended The Dawn Raids: Educate to Liberate conceived by Pauline Smith, author of the YA novel Dawn Raid which several of us have read. In the 1970’s police stormed the homes of Pasifika people, particularly Samoans and Tongans who were believed to be overstayers, in the early hours of the morning demanding proof of residency. Brought about by the economic downturn of the 1970’s and increasing unemployment.

The story was told firsthand through authentic memorabilia, archived footage and personal accounts from people involved. Our experience was an informative and valuable one that ended in a hot drink.

Now back to the injured and presumed dying bird. Thanks to Kohine and Deirdre’s efforts to gear up in Briscoes and return to the pūkeko, capture it and bring it to the vet, it received treatment and is back loitering the 70 km/h roads.

Maria Palmer

# Student Contributions

## The impact HHT has had on my life

I would just like to give a big welcome to everyone in our extended He Huarahi Tamariki family. Thank you for coming to our reopening. We spent the last two terms being kindly accommodated by Linden School but it feels good to be home. My name is Michael Valach and I'm here to talk about the impact this school has had on me.

So I've been a student at this school for about 3 years, give or take a couple of days that I've had to take off to catch up on sleep, but I can honestly say that coming here has been the highlight of my educational career. I've met some of the best friends in my life. I've studied under some of the best teachers in my life. And I'm like this itty bitty close to completing my level 3 – which thinking back a couple years I never would have thought that to be possible.

Things have been a little rough for me this year as our school Counsellor Caro would know. She's probably seen enough tears from me to fill a small swimming pool. But this school has been a safe haven for me. Somewhere that I've always felt supported and understood. Somewhere that my thoughts and feelings are respected and where I never have to shy away from being myself.

Seeing the students grow alongside their children has been an honour. I've learned so many things this year, not just education-wise, like how to program websites or how to struggle with research assignments, but I've learnt a lot

about myself and the person I want to be. And I'm grateful to everyone that has been there along that journey.

As a young dad my priority is, and always will be, my son. Getting another chance to further my education to work towards a better future for him is a blessing. Having him be so close in KidsCount is so comforting because I know he's in good hands. Speaking of that, I would like to just take a moment to acknowledge the staff in the KidsCount. Thank you guys for all the work you do, thank you for going above and beyond with making sure our children are happy and safe. Can we please give them a round of applause?

While I'm in the process of thanking people I would also like to give a shout-out to the teachers and staff of He Huarahi Tamariki. You have shown me that you have the option to be robotic calculators or dictionaries to get results but instead you choose to be like patient gardeners growing and nurturing our minds in your own kind and calm ways – So thank you!

You know in comic books they always show superheroes wearing undies on the outside of their pants and masks to hide their identities? But I think the real life superheroes are sitting right here in this room. I'm proud to be able to say I'm a part of the He Huarahi Tamariki family.

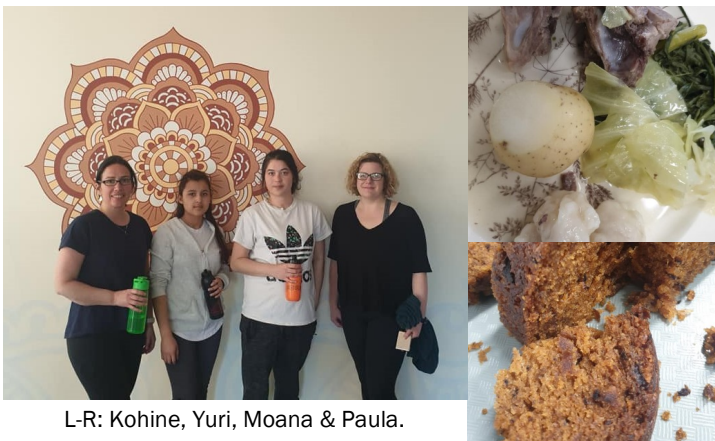
Thank you all for your support, your care, and your love – Thank you.

*Michael Valach – Speech given at the re-opening*

## Te wiki o te reo Māori

Te wiki o te reo Māori was very busy at He Huarahi Tamariki. We kicked off the week by going on a joint excursion with KidsCount to the Hīkoi Whakangahau in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. This was followed by attending a te reo Māori yoga class at the beautiful Awhi Yoga Studio.

Throughout the week, students each worked on making a set of te reo Māori flash-cards to use at home with their children. We finished the week by using these new words in a game of bi-lingual Bingo. This was a highlight of the week and was enjoyed almost as much as the boil-up our wonderful cook, Jaz Macdonald, prepared for lunch on Friday. Thanks also to Nakita Kopua for bringing in delicious homemade steamed pudding for dessert!



L-R: Kohine, Yuri, Moana & Paula.

## WOW!

When we headed off to WOW (World of Wearable Arts) we didn't know what to expect. We saw a huge yellow WOW sign (top right) on the waterfront as we walked to the TSB Arena and knew we were heading in the right direction.

We expected costumes and a runway, but as the lights went down at the start of the show we were thrown into a completely new world that we couldn't have dreamt of. Models in a variety of spectacular costumes appeared amidst a variety of dancers, acrobats, ballet dancers, violins, music and enormous set pieces. So much talent, time and hard work was on display and we loved every minute of the show. Our favourite costume actually had moving parts that spun around in circles (bottom right). WOW really did wow us!



L-R: Catherine Motusia & Claire Blacklock



*Claire Blacklock and Catherine Motusia*

## Graduate News



Ex-student, and now Apprentice, at Linden Motors Garage, Nikki Walker (above), taking the keys for the He Huarahi Tamariki van that needed a service. Awesome to see her there. It felt good leaving the keys in such good and confident hands.

He Huarahi Tamariki graduates Clara Curtis, Petra Haliciopoulos-Fisher, and Ruth Stuart (L to R) with their children: Alyra-Skye; Kayden,



Darcy (in 2nd photo), Lorelai (not pictured); and Tyler. Clara now has Bachelor of Law and works as a Solicitor at Michael Scott Law Office.

Petra has a Bachelor of Arts and is close to finishing her diploma in Information and Library Studies. She works part-time at Arapaki Library.

Ruth has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons – First Class) in Sociology and works in IT both at Victoria University and with her own business Stuart Data consultancy.

## Student Contribution

The house was as clean as a realistic house could be,  
Not like the ones in magazines or the ones you see on TV.

I let the bath fill to the tippity top,

A smile took over my face as in I hopped.

The hot water welcomed me with its serene bliss,

In that moment, there was nothing I had missed.

Nothing to do and nowhere to be,

In that moment, for once, it was just me.

Another day done,

And I can't say it was all fun,

So a bath I desired - All remaining work could get fired.

I started to daydream, to peacefully doze,

Then there was that sound that shocked to my bones.

An ear piercing exclamation of the title I most proudly claim;

“MUUUUMYYYYY!!!”

Oh how it shook the terrain.

Well that was a nice five minutes,

Better than the usual two.

Oh the joys of parenthood -

Always something to do!

*Anastasia Turley*



Left: During their time at HHT (2008) Above: Catching up this year.



**Welcome to our new babies:**

Hannah, a girl – Brooklyn

Maria, a girl – Samantha

Tyana, a girl – Honey Marie

**We would like to acknowledge the recent passing of some of the extended He Huarahi Tamariki family:**

Phil Desmond – Volunteer/Supporter

Sue Huddleston – former Front Office Manager

Neil Bellingham – Volunteer/Supporter

**A very big thank you to all the public and private donors who have supported us recently.**

**We welcome donations towards the work of the school.**

**Donations to the scholarship fund can be made to the HHT Trust. These are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.** Thank you to

the Tawa Catholic Women's League, Bing Dental Surgery, the Gawith-Deans family, Grant Morgan,

Dennis Gottshalk, Levin Catholic Women's League, Kiwi Community Assistance, Pregnancy Help, Dignity, Loved4Life

Your donations are very much appreciated.

**If you have changed address or would like the newsletter emailed to you, please contact us via [info@hht.school.nz](mailto:info@hht.school.nz)**

**Our host school is Wellington East Girls' College - Principal: Gael Ashworth**



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**“Of course you can do it”**