



He Huarahi Tamariki

SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 4 2022

Prize Giving and Graduation 2022

On Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 we celebrated our Prize Giving and Graduation. What was extra special this year, and yet in some ways also completely normal, is that you—our He Huarahi Tamariki whānau—were all here to celebrate alongside us. Some of us may have been wearing masks, a small number of us may have had to stay home, (and the windows might all have been open!) but we were relatively untouched by COVID-19 restrictions this year—a welcome change from 2021.

We celebrated last year too, but this year we were able to host you all as well and being able to give back is what makes it extra special. Paula made reference to this in her speech – Aroha mai, Aroha atu; Love received, Love given. It is a balanced equation.

And whilst we are all a little tired of COVID-19 still being part of this equation, and we could choose not to mention it, we do. Because without this reference, we wouldn't be able to fully acknowledge the amazing resilience of our students as they continue to accomplish the achievements detailed on the back page of this newsletter and a few more beside.

Thanks, as always, go to our donors and to the He Huarahi Tamariki Trust for all their generosity and aroha. We are all so grateful to know we have your support.

(See extracts from speeches on the day below.)

'This year is slowly coming to an end and reminiscing about all the adventures He Huarahi Tamariki embarked on throughout the year has left me feeling full.'

Shanaia Rapira (Student Report)

Personally I would even go so far as to say that this year has been the toughest. We are all "over it." We are all run down. We are all running on empty - and yet I look here today and I feel the aroha - I feel the whanaungatanga. The fact that we ARE here is awesome. You are all awesome. And you, our students, you are especially extra awesome. To commit to being here, being a parent, being a student, being a part of our HHT whānau in these extraordinary times is HUGE. I don't think anyone can make light of the last three years and the impact it has had.

Paula Hay – Kaiārahi



L-R: HHT Graduates: Denia, Catherine, Pina, Caci, Bridget, Shanaia; Kapa Haka: Shruti, Bree, Bailey; Welcome: Dahlia, Lily, Shanaia, Rose, Anastasia, Michael.

Kids Count – The Griffin School

Some of you may not know it, but here at He Huarahi Tamariki we are extraordinarily blessed to have a fantastic child care centre – Kids Count The Griffin School. We probably don't talk about them as often as we should. But we'd like to mention them today and show you photos of their graduates too. What follows is an extract from Shanaia Rapira's student report given at Prize Giving, acknowledging all that Lisa and her team mean to our students...

If it wasn't for you and your wonderful team of workers, we wouldn't have even had the time to be here and achieve everything we do. Being a mum in fulltime study is scary enough just to think about, and when you make that first leap into that lifestyle, you want your children to feel as safe and comfortable as can be and that's exactly how Lisa does it. I have a son who's in Kids Count at the moment, and he has soared through all his milestones and learnt things I'm amazed about.



Left to Right: Aolele with Lisa; Tayvia; James, Violet & Bridget

I don't know how to thank you enough. Your hard mahi and your passion for teaching kids is well recognized and you love our babies like your own which is truly all a parent can ask for. We appreciate you dealing with not only our babies, but us too. Because being a new mum comes with new mum stresses and frustrations. But you gently and informatively guide us down the right paths and educate us on whatever problem we may be experiencing at that time.

Lisa, you show us how big your heart is for any child you teach at Kids Count. Your skills shine bright, and our babies are blessed to be a part of your Centre, among some of the best possible kindy teachers.'

Tēnā koutou katoa

Aroha mai - love received

Aroha atu - love returned/love given.

This has been a mantra going through my head this year - aroha mai, aroha atu. To me, this is what HHT is all about. Everything we do - from asking if students are OK today, checking in to see why they are not at school, to coming and picking them up from home - feeding them, leaving them to have some peaceful time - it all comes down to aroha mai, aroha atu. As a whānau we ask to have aroha atu - love and kindness returned from our students. This may not be now, it might be tomorrow, it might be next week or next year. It might be after you graduate and head on to other things. Just know that part of you will always be here at HHT. We will always be here for you.

I would also like to thank all those that have provided additional opportunities this year for growth and awhi of our He Huarahi Tamariki whānau - those who have been part of our HHT whānau through the thick and thin. Without all of these amazing people and organisations, we would not be able to grow our young parents into the strong, capable and successful wahine they are. Tēnā koutou - thank you.

And this year, above all others, has been a year to thank all our dedicated and giving staff. We are a team. And this year has proven this again and again. I personally have never worked in a place where EVERYONE lives the kaupapa day in and day out.

*Ngā mihi nui,
Paula Hay – Kaiārahi*

Work Experience

Regis is HHT's handyman, and this one man can make all the magic happen. He managed to set up work experience for senior students, and Jenny also added her skills to this.

We had a choice from security, nails and gardening to painting and fencing. I had the opportunity to take up gardening out in Tarakena Bay with Bridget where we worked with a park ranger from Wellington City Council to help weed out the coastal forest and the weeds off the beach and what an experience it was. It was a clear blue sky with the sun beaming on us while we worked finding weeds to pull. It really changed my perspective on the environment. I went home and couldn't stop weeding my lawns for a week.

We also went to a security course. It was... BOMB. From the teacher to the assessments themselves. We worked alongside Mana College students and we bonded with them. Most of the credits from this course helped some of us pass our NCEA Level 3, so it was a big achievement. Not only that, we also gained our C.O.A. Certificate to help us get a job in the security industry should we want to in the future.

Shanaia on work experience with a Wellington City Council ranger.

*Shanaia Rapira
(Extract from the Student Report)*



Welcome to our New Babies!



Kameiha, a girl – Amānea

Open Afternoon

This year we tried something new. We had an Open Afternoon and invited staff working in secondary schools, agencies working with young people, medical professionals and our local councillors. The aim was to spread the word about the service we provide so that more young people who need us, find out about us and get the support they need to achieve their goals. The afternoon was a great success with over 50 people through the doors. The weather was kind to us and the afternoon tea was yummy! Thanks to all of you who made the time to come visit. If you missed it, we will be hosting this event again in 2023.



Wellington City Councillors and members of the Tawa community board at our Open Afternoon.

Graduate News

We were lucky to have a visit at the end of Term 3 from He Huarahi Tamariki Graduate Courtney Warren with her brand new baby boy Colby! Thanks so much for dropping in Courtney, it was great to see you both.

Helen enjoying cuddles with baby Colby, and Courtney.



Tribute to Sister Marcellin

It is with great sadness that we farewell longtime friend and supporter of the school Sister Marcellin who passed away on 24 October 2022. Marcellin entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1955 at St Mary's convent in Wellington.

She became a teacher and worked in several schools, but she also devoted a lot of time and energy working for social justice and women's issues. One of the ventures Marcellin was most proud of was her leading role in establishing the Wellington Homeless Women's Trust, and she saw the first home open in 2013.

In the late 90s she met Susan Baragwanath who was then establishing He Huarahi Tamariki – the School for Teenage Parents in Porirua. She joined in and during all the years she contributed to the school, she was much loved and appreciated for her energy and sense of humour. Her no-nonsense approach and non-judgemental ways were also perfect for our environment. All who have met her will remember her fondly and celebrate her generosity. Rest in peace, Sister.

Régis Le Moguédec

Tour of Culturally Significant Sites with Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Whaea Kohine and Whaea Fiona organised a Ngati Toa tour around Porirua so we could learn more about our local history. This was very insightful. I love my culture. I'm a proud Maori so having that opportunity to explore and discover more about ancestors, pa wars and the culture itself was satisfying for my brain cells. Te Rauparaha was the name of the tour guide so it wasn't hard to remember.

After being taken around Porirua, we got the chance to have a swim at Titahi Bay beach. It was gray and cloudy and it had just started to rain as we got onto the sand. But that didn't stop the majority of us. We still took a dip into the water and for me, it was a cleansing experience. I was able to wash all my life stresses off and be one with the ocean.

It was a more cultural approach rather than a fun time for me but don't get me wrong, I had an epic time! My favourite part

of the entire trip was learning that Maui had a sister and the fact that we got to see the 10% of land the Ngati Toa tribe got back which was only a strip of land. This had all of the students' blood boiling. Colonisation still affects the new generation clearly but that's another subject for another time.

*Shanaia Rapira
(Extract from the Student Report)*



Above: On 'Te Pahi' - Thanks Porirua City Council.



Above Right: Bree, Bailey, Shanaia & Holly at the barracks built by Governor Grey at Ngāti Toa domain where Ngāti Toa Rangatira people were hung in an attempt to undermine their resistance.



Right: Bridget & Shanaia at the 'smallest reserve in NZ'.



Above Right to Left: Students swimming at Titahi Bay Beach; Shanaia, Holly, Akeila & Bree looking out from Whitireia



Above: Our guide, Te Rauparaha
Right: Our Group

Visitors from Rangīātea – Whakatane Teen Parent Unit

A few weeks ago, He Huarahi Tamariki had the privilege to host a small powhiri to welcome Rangīātea, the Whakatane Teen Parent Unit (TPU), onto our school and we were able to meet and greet with each other and make new friendly connections with another TPU from far up north.

Meeting another group of young mums that only want the best for their child and their families made the day amazing. Personally, I love to surround myself with people who want to succeed. It's the law of attraction, but it's so much more empowering when you are surrounded by succeeding teen mums because everyone knows the stigma around teen parents, and we seem to prove that stigma wrong when we unite as one. The potential that just lingered off every mama I met, was astounding.

We played games that Jackie set up to get to know one another, and trust me, we had to ask questions we wouldn't have even thought of asking someone, so it definitely broke the ice. We then had a period of kapa haka and showcased what we had been practising for prize giving. We had their babies to accompany us as well which made the mood lighter and more family orientated.

*Shanaia Rapira
(Extract from the Student Report)*

From left to right top: Akeila & Lisiana, Akeila, Paula & others involved in ice-breaker games.



From left to right below: Bree & Shanaia welcome our guests with a karanga; He Huarahi Tamariki mihi whakatau group.



Awards and Scholarships

Please join us in celebrating our He Huarahi Tamariki 2022 Scholarship and Award Recipients.



HHT Outstanding Attendance Award:
Pina Maihi & Bridget Martin



Clifton Buck Memorial cup for Excellence in Writing:
Hannah Cuttle



Aporo Joyce Award Puawaitanga ki te Ao Māori:
Shanaia Rapira



HHT Resilience & Attitude Award:
Pina Maihi



HHT Values Award for Whanaungatanga:
Bree Kei Tonga



Masonic Knights Templar Scholarship & IT Equipment:
Caci Borren-Robertson



Zonta Mana Scholarship:
Bridget Martin



The Wellington Branch of the RNZCGP Scholarship:
Pina Maihi



HHT Trust Scholarship:
Catherine Motusia



John McIntyre Award:
Michael Valach



Margaret Lynne Baxter Award:
Gardenia Teina



Marcia Spencer Award:
Dahlia Pereira



Brian & Pat Tyler Scholarships:
Shanaia Rapira & Maria Palmer

Graduate Women Wellington Scholarship: Deni Tipene (absent)



Graduate Report Highlights

Jasmine Thomas left HHT in 2011 and was a stay-at-home mum for a few years before getting her Class 2 and 4 licenses. She got a job earthmoving on the Mackays to Peka Peka Expressway, then operated 7 different machines on Transmission Gully. In 2019 she got her Level 4 certificate in Business. And in 2020, received her Level 5 Diploma in Information Systems. She is currently doing an internship for her Bachelors in IT (focusing on Cyber Security & Programming). This year she also gave birth to a daughter - Aurora.

Courtney Moloney, a student at HHT in 2010, completed her Bachelor of Law this year, having worked as a paralegal and conveyancer in both property and family laws. She commented that it has been a very long road to this point - but she did it!! She has started her practical legal training and hopes to be admitted to the Supreme Court as a solicitor in Queensland in March next year. She is a proud Mum of four!

Ree Roberts graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Massey, majoring in English, minoring in history earlier this year. She has just been accepted into post graduate studies to be a secondary teacher, teaching senior history.

Nakita Kopua (one of our 2021 graduates) has completed her Level 3 Certificate in Automotive Engineering at Whitireia this year.

Nikki Walker qualified in Automotive engineering - completing level 3 at Whitireia in Porirua and her level 4 certificate at Weltec in Petone. It was an extra bonus having her do maintenance on our school vans in her role at Linden Motors.

Sarah Smith has been a Social worker for about 8 years now. She works for NZDF as the Youth Development Unit Social Worker for Trentham. They run a program for young people between the ages of 17 and 25. It's a very intense but rewarding job helping young people get clean and strive towards their goals. Her son, Noah, is 14 and loving college. This year she has found a new hobby and started selling some of her art at local markets. She laser engraves all sorts of things which are really quirky and fun. Check out her Facebook page – Embellished by Sarah.

Deni Tipene has just completed the second year of her nursing degree and works as a casual in mental health. She is due to have her third child in January.

Jasmine Te Pania (Day-Berkland) is assistant head teacher at Waiouru kindergarten living on the military camp in Waiouru. She recently married and has a baby due in January. Her oldest is finishing her 1st year in college.

Donations towards the work of the school are always welcome and donations to the scholarship fund can be made to the HHT Trust. Either of these are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.

A very big thank you to all the public and private donors who have supported us recently. Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you to Gawith-Deans Family Trust, Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowment Trust, Zonta, Succeed Legal, David Daily Charitable Trust, Inner Wheel of Wellington, Kiwi Community Assistance, Beanies for Babies, Pregnancy Help, Parish of Pauatahanui, Loved for Life and the many others who donate used equipment and clothing.

If you have changed address or would like the newsletter emailed to you, please contact us via info@hht.school.nz

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



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School for Teenage Parents,
Wellington, NZ

“Of course you can do it”