



He Huarahi Tamariki

SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 2 2021

Wahakura Workshop

At the end of Term 1 we were very honoured to host a Wahakura workshop for our friends at Plunket. This workshop targeted Plunket staff and young hapū māmā (pregnant mothers), so a number of our students were able to attend as well. Wahakura are hand-woven traditional Māori sleeping baskets for babies. The facilitator was an experienced weaver who supported participants to complete their wahakura and shared the tikanga regarding each step of the process. There was also information shared around safe sleep practices.

As a result of this awesome opportunity, two of our students now have wahakura they have made themselves ready and waiting for the arrival of their babies. We are so grateful to have such strong connections with the agencies that support us and we welcome the opportunity to work together like this.



Left to Right: Jenny (Kairaranga) and Akeila just starting to turn the sides; Bree binding off; Bree with her finished wahakura. Above Right: Nakita working hard.

Student Contribution — This Young Woman

Hey you! Yeah you! The one reading and listening to my story about me. First of all to start this off with, you're probably wondering who this young woman is. Before I lived in Wellington I used to live in the old capital of New Zealand, Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland. Before I moved here to Wellington, I stayed in a place in Auckland named Orakei. It's one of the most beautiful places you would probably ever get to see. It's got the wonderful views of Auckland city, the peaceful ocean, the most beautiful land, with a tranquil volcano, Rangitoto and another place. I call it "Home."

I loved my home and I loved the people who lived around me. But one day I got up and left to do "stuff" people did not love. Maybe you are wondering what the people did not love. It was called crime. Yes, I was a criminal, a very disgusting, bad criminal. A girl like me, you are thinking? A pretty looking, innocent girl? Well I wasn't that innocent. I stole cars, I was doing drugs, I robbed gas stations, and I hurt people. Why? Because I thought it was going to change my life and that it was cool. But it wasn't!

I have been in Youth Justice and Oranga Tamariki, another word for CYFS, for about six years. In and out of kids' prison, they call it. I was in and out of Youth Justice. There I met my partner, the one I am with today, the father to my child. You may be thinking this was a strange place to meet my partner and how were you even allowed to have a relationship in

there? It was very complicated, but you know young people always have their ways.

After leaving Youth Justice me and my partner had linked up a few times, "got on the piss" as New Zealanders would call it. We were always hanging on the streets, doing drugs, roaming at 3am, starting trouble.

Six months later, I got told to take a pregnancy test from my CYFS social worker. I had told her that I'm not pregnant but she just wanted to check just in case it. Three to four minutes. I looked at it and as I did I saw this blurry red line, not the red line that you'll see on the pregnancy test but another blurry line and it started to get redder and redder. I was pregnant, I was in shock! So was my partner.

From then I knew that I had to change and show Oranga Tamariki I could change so that I could keep my baby. I went to the doctor to check how far along I was and I was eleven weeks. "Wow," you are thinking. Yes, "Wow." I was thrilled when the doctor told me that I was officially pregnant. Holy Macaroni! With tears down my eyes, me and my partner decided to keep the baby. We told our families. There were some disappointed cries and some happiness, but no matter what they were always going to support us.

Karissa Manuel

Tēnā koutou katoa

*Ki te kotahi te kākahi, ka whati; ki te kāpuia, e kore e whati.
If a reed stands alone, it can be broken; if it is in a group, it cannot.*

When we stand alone we are vulnerable, but together we are unbreakable.

This whakataukī from Kingi Tūkāroto Matutaera Pōtatau Te wherowhero Tāwhia is unpacked in the book Aroha, by Dr Hinemoa Elder. She reflects on the concepts of separation, isolation and loneliness being destructive. Whereas our Māori ancestors knew that collectiveness, togetherness and closeness are what make us strong and less breakable. Sometimes we need to move closer together, sometimes we need to move further apart.

We have been working together to build our connections, through the combined Kids Count and He Huarahi Tamariki trip to the Zoo, hosting the Plunket Wahakura workshop and taking a crew of staff, students and supporters to the Tough Girl challenge.

When we come together as a collective with a shared purpose and a sense of belonging, we are at our strongest. At this time of Matariki, we have come together to share a kaikōhau, an expression of hope.

We hope you join us in sharing this message.

Nau mai ngā hua. Nau mai ngā pai. Nau mai kia nui. Kia hāwere ai.

Welcome all things that have grown. Welcome all things that are good. May they be plentiful and abundant.

Ngā mihi nui, Paula Hay

Doc Edge School Festival

On Friday 18 June, we were privileged to go to the Doc Edge Schools Festival, screening at the Roxy Cinema in Miramar.

In the morning session, we watched a film "The Boys Who Said No" about the young men who refused to be drafted during the Vietnam War and the consequences of their rebellion. The documentary used a lot of old news footage, as well as interviews in the present with several of the draft refusers.

In the afternoon we watched a series of short documentaries called 'Social Justice Shorts'. One that made a particular impression on me was about a young Syrian woman, who is now living in Germany. She had crossed the Mediterranean with her family in a small, overloaded boat which had capsized during the crossing. She is now working as a swimming instructor and her little brother is one of her students. She has learned to overcome her terrible fear of the water and drowning and is determined that her brother will do the same.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Rei Foundation for making it possible for us to be part of the Doc Edge Festival and to Matthew Donaldson who organises the School Festival and always makes He Huarahi Tamariki very welcome.

Nakita Kopua

Welcome to our New Babies!

Che'-Zahn, a boy — Kiyró-Zyair
Lydia, a boy — Levi



Volunteers

We are grateful to have had both Francie Bengie and Maggie Jardine join us as volunteers. Francie is in the classroom assisting students who are studying for their drivers licence. Maggie is working wonders in our school garden. We are very lucky to be so well supported by our community.

Staff News



Left: We are sad to announce that our Health Teacher and Counsellor Caro Atkinson will be leaving us at the end of this term. We wish her all the best with her new endeavours and hope to keep in touch. We are currently advertising for her replacement.



Left: Frances Horne's appointment as our new Math teacher has been confirmed; however, we have also farewelled her on Maternity Leave.



Above right: We have Robyn Deverall relieving in Maths.

Right: Our van driver Jenny Promphong has expanded her role to take on an Administration Assistant position as well.



Tough Guy Tough Girl

Tough Guy Tough Girl came around quickly this year after the COVID-19 delays last year. But we were ready!
(A big shout out to Shift for supporting us with this and Whaea Fiona for organising it.)



From left: The HHT group ready to start, Rose, Hannah & Pina, Millie. Top Right: Art & Kohine. Below Right: Nakita.

We Went to the Zoo!

At the end of last term we were lucky enough to be go on an excursion to Wellington Zoo with the whole school and Kids Count! We really appreciated having the support of the Te Pahi service and Wellington Zoo Education Team to make this happen. Thank you also to Patrick Flanagan for coming along and taking the photos. Below are some students comments:



Coollest bus ride with the kids and we survived the big walk. My son was super excited to see **ALL** of the animals. And an ice cream at the end topped it all off.

Nakita

We loved the monkeys and seeing them get fed. It was nice having our little snack breaks together with family and the whole school.

Art & family (above right)

The Zoo trip was a really good opportunity and I appreciated it because my son got to enjoy his first trip to the zoo with all his good friends and their mums. It would have been difficult for us to get to the Zoo ourselves, so I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.

Anastasia (above)



It was cool seeing different animals I hadn't seen before. My son liked it – especially the meerkats.

Karissa

It was an awesome experience and 'Thank you!' Paddy for the awesome photos.

Bridget and James (above with Mia)

Youth Week – Regional Teen Parent Unit Day



Above: Ella from Shift welcoming us all.

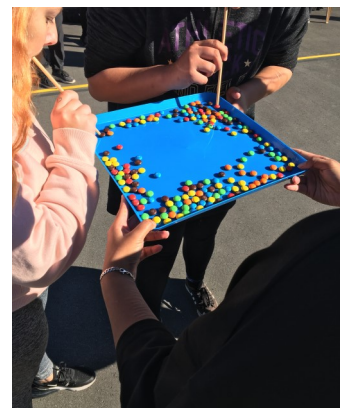
On Friday the 14th of May on a sunny day, we were given the opportunity to participate in the TPU day hosted by Shift. The event was held at the Mungavin Hall. The hall offered us heaps of space for all the TPUs to gather. We really enjoyed all the food that was provided by Shift, the fun activities after lunch, the indoor activities such as colouring and painting and being able to interact with the other TPUs.

The students watching the Kī-o-rahi game were impressed by how skilful the players were. Pita explained the game to us, helped us get organised into teams and ran the games. We really appreciated his expertise and knowledge. A massive thank you Ella and the other Shift members for making this event possible for us. We are super grateful for all the time and effort that went into organising this event.

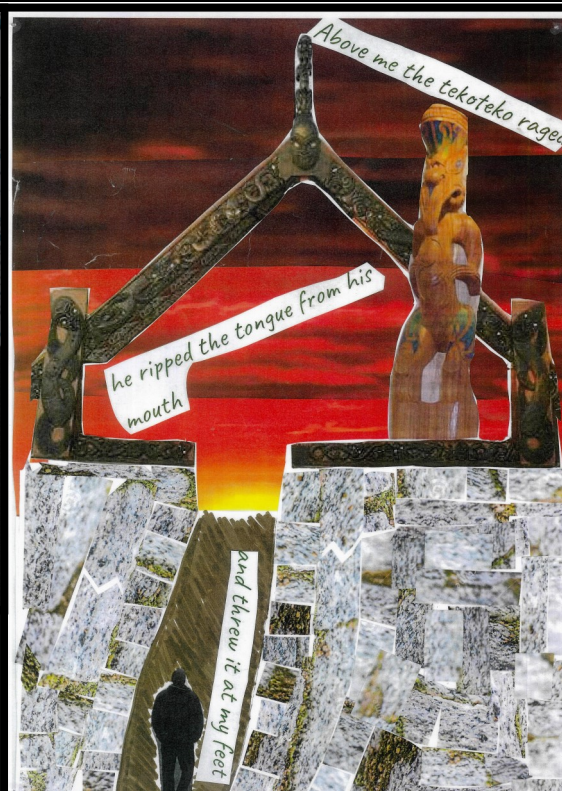
Dahlia Pereira



Above: Morning Tea by Shift



Student Contribution – Static Images



Work by Millie Carian-Waiwai (above), Karissa Manuel (right) and Lexus Nelson (below).

Graduate Update

I am Jordy Hermans a previous graduate from He Huarahi Tamariki (HHT). I attended HHT for the first time in 2006 being 17 and 4 months pregnant, and then graduated in 2008. I am grateful for the guidance and support HHT offered me during this time.

Fast-forward to 2021, I am now 31 and 5 months pregnant with my second child. Me and my family are very excited to be going on this parenthood journey once again and have a lot of re-learning to do!

I have since, my time at HHT, completed a Bachelor of Arts and am in my final year of a Bachelor of Law. I am currently an Advisor for the Ministry of Justice and have worked in quite a few other roles within Justice too. I am passionate about making sure everyone has access to justice and I also mentor first year law students to help in anyway I can make their learning journey better.

I am forever appreciative of the support HHT gave me for it allowed me to continue on with my life journey for the betterment of myself and my whānau.

Jordy Hermans



Jordy is pictured here with Linda Broome receiving the Marcia Spencer Award in 2019. She was also awarded the Graduate Women's Scholarship that year. In 2020 Jordy again received the Marcia Spencer Award. We are so grateful to have this support from our community and so pleased to hear how our graduates are doing — Thank you Jordy!



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 Jenifer Kerr, Gawith-Deans Family Trust, Sandra Orpin, HHT Trust.

Kiwi Community Assistance, Dignity, Beanies for Babies, Pregnancy Help, Shift, Compassion Soup Kitchen, 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



Follow us on Facebook:
He Huarahi Tamariki - HHT
School for Teenage Parents,
Wellington, NZ

“Of course you can do it”