



# He Huarahi Tamariki

## SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 2 2020

### Prize Giving and Graduation 2019

We finished a very challenging 2019 with a well-earned celebration in the form of Graduation and Prize Giving. It was not only a day of celebration, but one of reflection—an opportunity to look back **and** forward. A key focus in the speeches on the day was how important well-being and support is to achieving success of any sort. You can read about this in the speeches of our students (included in this newsletter) and in the words of our Kaiārahi, Paula Hay (right).

For support on the day, we would like to extend special thanks to our students who presented and performed. And we are ever grateful to our extraordinary donors who supply the grants and awards available to our students. For a complete list of acknowledgements, refer to the back of this newsletter.

*We are fortunate to have many individuals and organisations that support and enable our students to thrive and bloom. Without all the awahi from our community...we would not be able to grow our young parents into the strong, capable and successful wahine you will see today. Tēnā koutou- thank you.*

*Success is a very personal endeavour, and all of us in this room are humbled to be a part of that journey. Remember, even a mighty totara once started life as a tiny seed. We look forward to seeing you and your children find your best environment and flourish. Remember: You are learning—and you are passing on the value of always learning to your children.*

*Paula Hay*



L-R: Sam; Indiarna and Sascha; Catherine and Yuri; Nakita and Dahlia; Claire, Kohine, Paula and Regis; Helena and Jazreah; Hinhou and Moana.

### Graduation Speaker—Michael Valach

Hello everyone my name is Michael Valach and before I start I would like to give a warm welcome to the friends, family and supporters of our He Huarahi Tamariki family. I appreciate the opportunity to talk to you all today. I would like to take this time to give my opinion on the key to productivity.

Now if I was to ask you what you thought the most important factor in being productive was, there's a lot of things that may come to mind. Some of the things that might come to mind are having the best resources, maybe having very strict rules and schedules.

I can agree that in certain cases those things can definitely help. In my personal opinion the number one most important contributing factor to productivity seems much simpler, but in reality most schools tend to ignore it or go about its acquisition in counter-intuitive ways.

I think if you want a student who is truly productive, then first you need to make sure that student is happy.

Now when I say that, I don't mean you should have to put on a fake smile and be the one that laughs the loudest. I don't mean that you should have to ignore every negative thing in your life and suppress your pain. Because although that may be a temporary fix, it's also a superficial happiness and that is often exhausting to maintain. This is where a majority of schools fail and He Huarahi Tamariki thrives.

Although in most schools this superficial happiness is commonplace and even expected, our school is a place where the way you feel is just as valid as the way you think. It's a sanctuary in which you can be supported in working to conquer those negative thoughts by staff and students alike. This school recognizes that before we can battle the likes of Shakespeare or algebra, we must first make progress on battling the demons within our own minds.

I look around the room and I can guarantee that almost every person here will have been in an environment at some point in their lives that was so draining and seemingly determined

to bring them down that any motivation to accomplish their goals was taken from them. I obviously can't speak for everyone but I'm so proud to say that this place has been the exact opposite for me.

That's why even though this year has been one of the most difficult, it's also been the year where I have met the most amazing people, achieved more than I have in a long time and most importantly made some of my happiest memories.

So if I was to give one piece of advice to those looking to maximise their productivity it would be this: if you want to make the most progress toward your goals, focus first on making progress on your own mental wellbeing.

*Michael Valach*



Michael Valach speaking at Prizegiving

## Tēnā koutou katoa

Poipoia te kakano kia puawai  
Nurture the seed and it will blossom

The past six months have certainly been unprecedented times, with the global pandemic bringing our He Huarahi Tamariki life to a grinding halt along with the rest of Aotearoa.

We started the year with a hiss and a roar after the celebrations and successes of 2019. We welcomed new students, new babies and new ways of being in 2020. Goals were discussed and set – new seeds were planted and nurtured. However, only eight weeks into our school year we were all forced to spend our time at home.

Our HHT whānau have shown immense resiliency and adaptability throughout this time. I am so proud of the connections that were built and strengthened during lock-down. The nurturing of all our seeds continued throughout difficult times and this is indicative of the value we place on our community. We are stronger together. We are glad to be back, although not quite back to normal. We welcome our new faces, staff, students and their families. We are looking forward to nurturing our community and watching it thrive.

Thank you to those who have supported us all so far this year. Special thanks to those who supported us and our whānau during lock down.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge and thank all the staff of Kids Count and HHT for continuing your dedication to support our young people through these tough times. Your aroha shines through and is essential to the growth of our young people.

Thank you.

Ngā mihi nui  
Paula Hay

## Rick Doyland (1938-2020)

Rick was a volunteer at HHT for many years. His primary mission for us was to be a “fixer”, no job too big or too small. At school we are surrounded by pieces of furniture that have stood the test of time, some built from scratch, obviously built to last; some fixed up to help us make what we have last longer. A highlight of Rick’s prowess was when he and friend Bruce built us a portable Field of Remembrance so that HHT could celebrate Anzac day 2015 just like any other school, despite the fact we did not have a “field” as such. A moving celebration was held that year, which meant a lot for all of us, and not in the least to Rick himself.

But if Rick is remembered so dearly here, it is for a lot more than his technical skills. Rick genuinely cared a lot about us and what we do here. Every visit, he always had time for a laugh and a joke with everyone and anyone. His positive attitude and optimism reverberated in our hearts, like his explosive laughter and funny stories did within our walls. He loved us, and we knew it. He is sorely missed.

Kua hinga te tōtara i te Wao nui ā Tane. Haere atu rā Rick.

## School Fest Excursions

On the 24th of February our group that consisted of four students, Peter and Helen, went to see Kate Tempest’s performance at the Michael Fowler Centre. Kate Tempest is a renowned British rap artist and spoken word poet, often performing on the streets of London. We were lucky enough to be donated tickets by Mr Mike McCombie for which we are extremely thankful. The show was a fantastic medley of dominating synths, thought provoking lyrics and humorous banter.

The song that made the most impact on me was called “People’s Faces”, especially the line, “There is so much peace to be found in people’s faces.”

I found myself moved constantly and I feel so privileged to have been provided with the opportunity to see this artistry. I think the audience would have agreed, since Kate was given a standing ovation.

I wanted to give a thank you to Peter for taking his personal time out to transport us to this event. And thank you Helen for being Helen.

In a time filled with so much hate and division Kate’s performance was a beautiful display and request for unity.

Michael Valach



L-R: Peter, Maria, Anastasia, Vvie, Michael at Kate Tempest

At Mr Red Light with Tryvge Wakenshaw  
Back L-R: Michael, Peter, Anastasia  
Front: L-R Nakita, Maria, Dahlia

## Dignity NZ

Dignity NZ have supported our students for a number of years with much needed period products. Recently, it was lovely to be able to return some of that support by talking to TVNZ about the important work that Dignity NZ do. We did this last year to coincide with the submission that Dignity made to the government about the need to fund the supply of period products in schools and this year it was in response to the recent budget announcements moving towards this.



Tay, Helena and Dahlia with Dignity products (above) and TVNZ (Below)



## Bubble Art



Our ‘Bubble’ art wall has pride of place in the Wharekai at the moment. It is filled with photos, artwork and thoughts reflecting on our various experiences during Lockdown.



## Performing Arts at He Huarahi Tamariki



Claire, Hinehou, Catherine and Kohine at Te Kōnohete 2019



Catherine, Yury and Hinehou at the Tawa Cultural Festival 2019



Students from all around Wellington at Rā Haka 2020

Last year was a busy one for Performing Arts at He Huarahi Tamariki. Highlights included performing at Te Kōnohete with the Kapa Haka group from Te Aho o te Kura Pounamu, and our student performances of Kapa Haka and Cook Island Dance at Prize Giving.

We are keeping busy in 2020 as well. We kicked off by attending Rā Haka in Term 1 and this term will see the beginning of weekly tutoring from past student Shawnee Ormsby-Ryder and Chyna McCaskill, who helped us prepare for Prize Giving last year. We will also continue our relationship with Te Kura and hope to perform again at Te Kōnohete.



Our Kapa Haka group (above) and our Cook Island Dancers (below) performing at Prize Giving 2019



## Graduation Speaker—Hinehou Mason

Kia ora, I am Hinehou, and I was born Māori.

My parents never knew that I was ashamed to be Māori, that I felt weird to be me, to have Māori culture in my system. I was teased by the older kids in primary for being a “Plastic Māori”, for not speaking the language. How was I supposed to look Māori or speak the language when I barely knew it? Was I supposed to look like a barefoot, snotty-nosed, messy-haired child with clothes that didn’t fit me? I didn’t know that I was supposed to look like that. I had no clue that I was supposed to have an unhealthy diet, only bringing noodles and raro, or no food at all for lunch and be scabbing off the other kids. I was called a plastic or fake Māori because I didn’t look or sound like Jeff da Māori from “Bro Town”. I was clothed “properly”, I always had food in my lunch box, I spoke “proper English, proper words”. And, when I was five and six I was ashamed to be Māori.

The word “Plastic Māori” was often used by Māori who grew up surrounded by Māori language and tikanga. They would use the term “Plastic Māori” to those who didn’t know their whakapapa, Te Reo, or their tikanga, to make them feel less of a Māori. It was used towards fair skin Māori who didn’t acknowledge their ancestry or just didn’t know it. In New Zealand gift shops there are plastic Māori dolls you can buy and attach to your keychain. Some people let them dangle, admire them and will leave them alone, some will make fun of the fact that you are just like a plastic Māori from a white place dangling off other people. You can’t blame someone for not knowing their history, but you can help them.

When I was eight I was teased by the other Māori kids for not knowing my whakapapa, for not knowing my full pepeha and for having parents who wanted me educated in the “White Man’s World”. I just want to say sorry to all those “real Māori” kids who I had offended for being “plastic” for being “kōtuku ma.” I was bullied for being a culture I was born into. It didn’t help that I went to a primary school that didn’t have many Māori kids. It was mainly run by white kids and they loved picking on the kids with no future, the kids who were dumber than rocks. They made us feel like nothing and we always felt worthless. They made sure to tell us everyday that the only reason why we Māori kids have gotten this far in life is be-

Hinehou Mason speaking at Prizegiving



cause *their* parents pay taxes to the government who then give *our* parents the benefit or the dole because *our* parents are too useless and lazy to find jobs. To Pākehā kids I wasn’t “one of them”; to the Māori kids, I wasn’t “one of them” either, I wasn’t a real Māori. When I was eight I was ashamed and harassed for being Māori.

The first week of the recent school holidays a fellow student and I had the privilege of going to a Māori tourism cultural camp on Te waewae Kāpiti o Tara rūa ko Rangitāne, the beautiful and peaceful Kāpiti Island. I had such an amazing time learning more about my culture that I share with others. I didn’t realise how much Māori I could understand and could

speaking until we got there. It felt like I had always known Te Reo, like I was born speaking it. I learnt the importance of karakia, why we had them and who we’re saying them to. I felt my mana building up. I was so happy being surrounded with the love and the strength of Māori. Everywhere I went someone spoke Te Reo and they weren’t whakamā about it either. The other taura there loved speaking, love hearing and love singing Te Reo. It made me open my eyes seeing that there are many cultures in the world and they absolutely love the one they were born into. I learnt why it’s important to keep our language alive, I was able to kōrero with people about being Māori and what it meant to them. One student with confidence said “Because it’s who I am, I would never trade my culture or my language”. We need to keep Te Reo alive and to be teaching all generations, not just the younger generations. Māori is a beautiful language and it’s important to keep it alive as if it dies out, nobody will remember us and our beautiful taonga. Being Māori isn’t a burden, it’s magic, it’s us and it’s shared by te tangata o Aotearoa. I learnt so much and more about tikanga, whakapapa and what Māori language and culture means to me. After that experience I feel honoured to be Māori, to have Māori DNA running through my body, to be able to understand and speak Te Reo. I’m happy being Māori. Tōku reo, tōku ohooho, tōku reo tōku māpihi maurea. Tōku whakakai marihi, My language is my strength. An ornament of grace.

Kia ora, Ko Hinehou tōku ingoa, He Māori ahau.

Hinehou Mason

## Graduate News

Earlier this year, He Huarahi Tamariki Graduate, Dr Helen Woolner, was awarded this year's Biennial Zonta Science Award. This award recognises Helen as an exceptional emerging scientist. As well as receiving a commemorative pounamu medal designed by NZ jeweller Neke Moa, Helen receives financial support which will enable her to travel to Europe to visit pharmaceuticals and natural product laboratories and explore collaborative research possibilities. The main focus of Helen's current research is improve our understanding of a traditional Samoan anti-inflammatory medicinal plant. Helen is investigating the plant's potential in the treatment of human diseases, such as obesity, cancer, Alzheimer's and tuberculosis.



Helen Woolner, winner of the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Zonta Science Award 2020. Photograph courtesy of Victoria University of Wellington.

## Welcome to our New Babies!

Art Laumua, a girl – Akesa  
 Azaria Turua, a boy – Kaius  
 Jess Ifi, a girl – Skyla  
 Karissa Manuel, a boy – Timothy  
 Sacha Beckingsale-Lagah, a girl – Ocean Poppy  
 Pima Fuli, a boy – Austin  
 Moana Nukutarawhiti, a girl – Sina-Moana  
 Pina Maihi, a boy – Ethan  
 Michel Rodriguez Lagos, a girl – Yurindel

## Staff News



At the end of 2019, we farewelled Han-Chung Teo due to overseas travel  
 This term, we are very pleased to welcome Jenny Promphong as our new Driver.  
**Nau mai, Haere mai Jenny!**

## Awards and Scholarships

Please join us in celebrating our He Huarahi Tamariki 2019 Scholarship and Award Recipients.



Left Above: Jaz McDonald presenting Maria Palmer, Hinehou Mason, & Catherine Motusia with the HHT Outstanding Attendance Award.



Left Below: Kaitlyn Paenga & Hinehou Mason—recipients of the Aporo Joyce Award in 2019 with Kohine Balejko.

Right: Nakita Kopua receiving the HHT Resilience Attitude Cup from Paula Hay



Far Left: Maria Palmer receiving the Clifton Buck Memorial cup for Excellence in Writing from Julia Buck.

Left: Yvie Ward receiving the HHT Excellence in Level 1 or 2 Writing from Helen Bean.

Right: Sam Beattie receiving the Masonic Knights Templar Laptop from Dr Chris Roberts.

Far Right: Anais Ngaronga-Pound—Masonic Knights Templar Scholarship recipient.



Far Left: Pray Meh Nga receiving the Brian & Pat Tyler Scholarship from Brian Tyler.  
 Left: Sam Beattie receiving the Brian & Pat Tyler Scholarship from Brian Tyler.



Top Far Left: Jordy Hermens receiving the Marcia Spencer Award from Linda Broome.

Top Left: Anais Ngaronga-Pound—Margaret Lynne Baxter Award recipient.

Bottom Far Left: Anais Ngaronga Pound—Zonta Scholarship recipient.  
 Bottom Left: Jordy Hermens receiving the Graduate Women's Scholarship from Rae Duff.

Right: Pray Meh Nga receiving the John McIntyre Award from Ruth McIntyre.



Donations towards the work of the school are always welcome and donations to the scholarship fund can be made to the HHT Trust. 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 F E McDonald, Sandra Orpin, Wendy Crane, Jenifer Kerr, Mike McCombie, Helen & Ron Bichan, Gawith-Deans Family Trust, Lower Hutt Probus, Zonta Club of Mana, The Children's Bookshop, Kiwi Community Assistance, Plunket, Dignity, Linden Community Centre, Little Sprouts, The Parsonage, Inner Wheel of Wellington Rotary, Anglican Women's Group Johnsonville, Pregnancy Help, Take Note Tawa, St Andrews Church Plimmerton, Beanies for Babies, Hilde Godenho

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**“Of course you can do it”**