

## Student Writing

Weekends! Sleeping in! Chilling out! Time to myself to do what I wanted to do, looking forward to what the weekend would bring. By Monday I was already thinking about what I wanted to do the weekend after. But that all changed when I fell pregnant at 15.

We now have a “cling on”, there are no sleep-ins anymore. Baby doesn't understand weekends. He wakes as usual and wants us to get up too. We try to ignore him so hopefully he just goes back to sleep. But that doesn't work! He cries and sits in the corner of his cot. This makes us feel bad, so then it's time to get up. Great! Only 4:30am! Welcome to parenthood.

Many challenges come with being a young teenage parent. One of these is the negative attitudes of others especially how often older people disapprove of teen parents and put them down for it. They are often just being plain rude, saying nasty things, giving you nasty looks and putting you down just because of your age. Attitudes of others in supermarkets, public transport, or just being out in public in general can be very difficult. They sometimes give us a look like we are a piece of mud on their shoe. I think it's unnecessary. Yes we may be young but there is really no need to treat young parents the way many people do, like we are different from everyone else, because we are still people doing the same as everyone else but we just have a baby to do it with now.

Tara Culp-Ressler in an article I read on the internet said, “Too often teen parents receive shame instead of support”. I agree! Teen parents are frequently put to shame. Some people are always commenting that teen parents don't know what they are doing, that they are clueless and are babies having babies and that they have no clue because of how young they are. But who are they to judge? In my opinion age doesn't matter, age is just a number. Age doesn't determine if you can look after a baby or not.

I was told my life was over, that I would get nowhere in life because I had a child at a young age. I was told to abort my baby. But where would that have got me? It's heart-breaking hearing a family member saying to abort something so little and innocent. Having my baby has been the best part of my life. My life's not over; it has only started.

Other teenage mothers have had similar experiences to me such as having so called “friends” and teachers talking about them, putting up with what other people have to say and how much they disapprove of someone so young having a baby and putting them down for it, makes them feel horrible. And I've even been reduced to tears because of it.

However, not everyone is negative. I have received a lot of support from family and friends and teachers, which someone as young as me needs. There are people I know who are around the same age as me with no family support at all, who are doing it all on their own and I reckon it takes a strong person to do that.

In spite of the difficult days like teething, viruses and unsettled days/nights, we enjoy our baby. Overall he is a happy, cheerful baby and likes exploring and learning. Walking is his latest thing. It influences successes and failures from bumps to bruises, scrapes and cuts which come with an active walking baby. For me when I was pregnant I was really worried about being judged, but now I couldn't care less. I'm proud to be a young mum and to be blessed with our baby. He's the best gift.

Extracts from a speech given by Rheana as part of her Level 1 English Achievement Standard.

**A very big thank you to all the public and private donors who have supported us this term. We could not provide the varied programme and high standard of care for our students without your help. 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. Our thanks to Tawa Art and Craft Society and The Board of Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments.**

**If you have changed address or would like the newsletter emailed to you, please contact Sarah De Renzy at sarah@hht.school.nz**

He Huarahi Tamariki School for Teenage Parents—PO BOX 51346 TAWA WELLINGTON—(04) 232 0956 Fax 232 0957—sarah@hht.school.nz  
Our host school is Wellington East Girls' College—Principal: Sally Haughton

## Health Science



Helena Wardle and Tineka Waiariki used play dough, blue tack, pipe cleaners, glass pebbles and pompoms to create a plant cell model showing all cell organelles in proportion and labelled. This was part of their health science course at Whitireia Polytechnic. The model is now being used in science classes at HHT and has promoted a lot of discussion around cell organelles and their function. Helena, Tineka and Zara are part of a new initiative leading towards the Foundation Nursing course at Whitireia. Students study biology and chemistry one day a week. “I really look forward to Wednesdays. I haven't missed one yet,” said Helena.

## KidsCount-Griffin School

I am pleased to announce that two new teachers have joined the Kids Count team. Ingrid Crispin joined us on 10th April as a full time, permanent, qualified teacher. Melanie Hart joined us on 1st May. Melanie is a qualified teacher and will be covering for Amy whilst Amy is on maternity leave. Our best wishes to Amy. Lisa Jackaman - Centre Manager.



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# He Huarahi Tamariki



School for Teenage Parents -Term 2 2017

## HHT Visits Porirua RSA



As part of our ANZAC commemorations, HHT students and staff visited the Porirua RSA where Aporo Joyce, Past President of the RSA, gave an introduction to the history, philosophy and culture of the organisation. Staff Sergeant Dee O'Connor, and Sergeant Angel Ngapera described their respective roles in logistics, the military police and recruiting. Both Angel and Dee have spent time serving overseas in various locations including Bosnia, Afghanistan and East Timor. They also explained the history and significance of their military medals which recognised their service both in New Zealand and overseas. Their talk was engrossing and we look forward to a further visit and learning about career



## 2016 Scholarship Awards



Our students were fortunate to receive assistance from the HHT Trust scholarship programme and our generous donors at Prize Giving. The following scholarships were awarded: Ree Roberts received the **NZ Federation of Graduate Women Scholarship** from Sister Marcellin Wilson; Amber Woods received the **Margaret Lynne Baxter Award** and the **Marcia Spencer Award** from Linda Broome; Johanna Ashcroft received the **Zonta Scholarship** from Michelle Robinson; Kimberley Strachan and Kim Edmonds Stoneham both received scholarships from **Brian & Pat Tyler**; Hayley Poutama received the **Mana Business & Professional Women Scholarship** from Noeline Reisch and Leiana Lavakula received the **Mana Mission Support Scholarship** from Carol Smith accompanied by Claudia Larsen. We also celebrated our student leavers, Sandra-Jean Graham-Hall, Edan Taufiti Moses together with Ree Roberts and wished them all the best.

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**From our Teacher in Charge**  
Tēnā koutou katoa

Getting ready for school is a family affair at HHT –whether it is the children helping Justin move sand to the sandpit for Kids Count or Sharna, aged three, helping her mother, Elizabeth Te Rangī, to enrol for another year at HHT. We wish all our students well with their studies.

2016 ended with the celebration of the year’s achievements at Prize Giving. As always, it was a privilege to acknowledge our students’ hard work and commitment *and to have the opportunity to do so* in the company of so many family and loyal supporters. Thank you to our donors who continue to assist our leavers with tertiary scholarships and to all those who contribute in so many ways. The year was capped with our Zonta treat of a dinner and an inspiring speaker, Dale Williams, from Porirua City Councillor and ex mayor of Otoro-hanga.

A recent article in The NZ Herald reviewed a study undertaken by AUT into the educational success of teen parent units. The study found that “teen mums enrolled in the units are 20 per cent more likely to gain NCEA than mums who aren’t enrolled.” The article featured former student, Petra Haliciopoulos-Fisher, graduate of VUW and now librarian and mother of two. Petra paid tribute to HHT and said, “It felt like they were your advocates in a world where it wasn’t okay to be teen parents. It was a safe space.” Petra strongly advocated for increased access to teen parent schools. The stigma experienced by Petra is echoed in the student writing in this issue. At HHT our key business and pleasure is to welcome, share and validate parents’ journeys. It brings us up with a shock when we hear our young parents have been subjected to unsolicited comments and censure. Our parents are celebrated and supported by our HHT community and it is very timely to acknowledge all who champion the school and our students.

Term one has flown past. We have had a wealth of visitors, opportunities and presentations including Wellington Community Law on tenancy and police rights, sustainable housing, SHIFT, Heartbeat and Tape Art -(see article below), dental care and more.

Our level 3 English students are immersed in Othello and grappling with rich questions such as, the real dangers to the characters come not from external forces but from “forces” within. Discussions have been very thoughtful. Science classes have continued to capture students’ interest and three students have followed this with participation in the Foundation Health Course at Whitireia as part of the STAR programme. We had a very positive visit by ERO in March as part of a national teen parent review and look forward to their report.

Many plans are afoot including participation in the annual TPU netball tournament in Rotorua and viewings at the documentary film festival at the Roxy Cinema. Our cultural programme has received a real boost with donations from the Tawa Art and Craft Society to foster art and craft activities and the Board of Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments to develop our Pasifika performing arts programme. We are very grateful for this support which significantly enriches student life at HHT.

Ngā mihi Helen Webber



## Tape Art in Porirua



Students took part in a ‘Tape Art’ workshop run by Erica Duthie and Struan Ashby as part of the Porirua Kite Project to design and create multi cultural art kites. Students use blue masking tape, scissors and paint to create the work. These will be combined with portraits of locals and installed in the Porirua CBD as a temporary exhibition.

## Launching Leaders

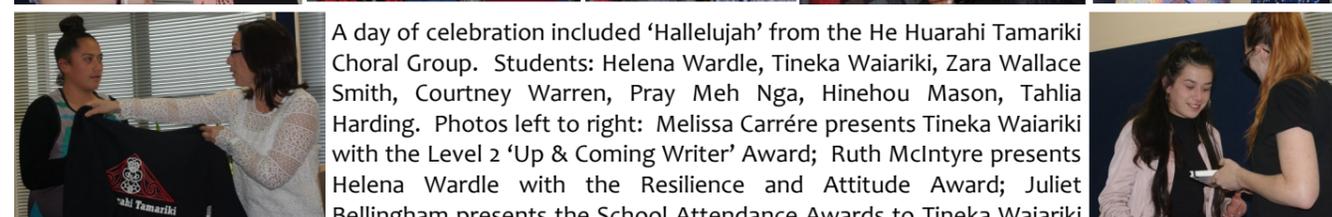
Michael Valach attended the 2017 Launching Leaders Day at Scots College recently together with students from around the Wellington, Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay regions. A series of workshops and speakers provided a forum for discussion on leadership and service. “It was an inspiring day that changed my perspective on what it meant to be a leader. I enjoyed listening to Stacey Shortall, a partner at Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, who was very empowering and an effective and positive role model. Her ‘WHO DID YOU HELP TODAY’ programme encourages us to help each other more. I also enjoyed Paul Rataul who as a young 24 year old, has established his own company, Millennial Mindset, to coach and inspire people to use their skills in order to live their dreams. He was very, very inspiring in a way that was very relateable. I attended four workshops during the day: “Ethical Practices and Sustainability in an Ever Changing World” with James Bushell, “What does it mean to be a leader? Lessons from NZ’s best coaches and athletes” with Alex McKenzie, “Millennial Mindset” with Paul Rataul and “8 Steps to your Dream Job” with Jason Buckley. I would recommend the day to anyone.

*“Leadership is an ability not a position”*

## Media

- Listen to Amber Woods on Radio NZ ‘Nine to Noon’ about her journey as a young parent, completing school at HHT and heading off to university. <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon>.
- See also Petra Halicioupolos quoted in article on the educational success of TPUs <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/>

## Prize Giving December 2016



A day of celebration included ‘Hallelujah’ from the He Huarahi Tamariki Choral Group. Students: Helena Wardle, Tineka Waiariki, Zara Wallace Smith, Courtney Warren, Pray Meh Nga, Hinehou Mason, Tahlia Harding. Photos left to right: Melissa Carrère presents Tineka Waiariki with the Level 2 ‘Up & Coming Writer’ Award; Ruth McIntyre presents Helena Wardle with the Resilience and Attitude Award; Juliet Bellingham presents the School Attendance Awards to Tineka Waiariki and Tahlia Harding; Helen Bean presents the Clifton Buck Memorial Cup for Excellence in Writing to Hineora Mike; Kohine Balejko presents Isayah O’Neil with a hoodie for the 2016 Graduate Leadership Award & Chloe Forbes presents the SHIFT award to Nikki Walker. Amber Woods, graduate student, spoke about her time at HHT and transition to Victoria University.

## Reading Clock



This term at HHT we have started a “Reading Clock” in the Level 2 English space. This came about because a student finished ‘The One Memory of Flora Banks’ in four days, and then a second student finished a book called ‘No Virgin’ in just 24 hours! We therefore decided we needed a visual way to keep track of all this incredible reading, so on the wall above our learning area there is now a “Reading Clock”. This is more like a timeline, where we can stick little cards showing the cover of the book, the student’s name, how long it took to read the book, and how many stars they would give it out of five. There are already 16 books on the reading clock, and not only have most of these been read in less than two weeks, but quite a few are the first books the students have ever read. The students are absolutely loving the books we have on offer, but we are always looking for more recommendations. If you have a brilliant YA title that you’d like to share with us, please email Melissa on [a@hht.school.nz](mailto:a@hht.school.nz)

**New Babies** We welcome our new baby:  
Dahlia - Marika.



*He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka.*

## Graduates

Our congratulations go to Clara Curtis, who is our very first graduate to complete her Bachelor of Laws from Victoria University. Clara is now working for Darroch & Forrest. Clara was our graduate speaker at prize giving in 2015 and is an advocate for young parents. Our best wishes to Clara for her professional exams.



Rose Meyer recently gained her Master of Fine Art with First Class Honours (Whitecliffe) and is a lecturer at the school. As a practising artist she also won the New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Award 2017 with her work ‘Journey; from pen to print to paint’ and the Barfoot and Thompson Award of \$3,000 for her work ‘To: Osborne Lane, 2 Kent Street’ at the 2016 Glaister Ennor Graduate Art Awards. We are so proud of you!

