



He Huarahi Tamariki

SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 4 2025

Prize Giving and Graduation 2025

We were thrilled to farewell seven graduates this year and to send them on their way with scholarships from our donors and the HHT Trust. In addition, a further three scholarships were awarded to past graduates continuing tertiary study. And, for the first time we had two external awards presented: a scholarship from the House of Grace and the E Tū Wahine Tuākana award from The 502 Rangatahi Ora.

We also enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate academic achievements made throughout 2025 with the Special School Awards and student commendations. You can find the full details of this on the last page.

Our guest speaker was graduate Jordy Hermens. It was a privilege to hear from her about her journey that started with He Huarahi Tamariki almost 20 years ago. It has since en-

compassed two beautiful children, a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Law, a successful career in Justice and, next year, will include a Lawyers licence.

Her words were a great inspiration and encouragement to students who are at the beginning of similar journeys.

"I believe that education combined with HHT support and a mother's love for her children are such powerful tools that make all parents no matter what their age unstoppable.

I wish to again, congratulate the 2025 HHT Graduates you are all so amazing. I wish you many blessings as you embark on the next chapter of your life journey."

Left to Right: He Huarahi Tamariki 2025 Graduates (L-R) Liam, Tia, Kaila, Leone, Caitlyn, Sara & Tennesse. Jackie with our Siva dancer Leone. Graduate Guest Speaker Jordy Hermens. Caitlyn & Tennesse our MCs. Uncle Lele's House Graduates (L-R) Mila, Cassidy, Carter & Naomi.



Student Contribution — Dedication to Young Parents

Statement of Intent: This piece of writing became a Dedication to Young Parents who have been dealt a short hand of cards during their own childhood and are using everything in their power to reach their fullest potential for their own children.

Lily Glastonbury

Recipient of the Clifton Buck Memorial Cup for Excellence in Writing Level 3

There are many of us who rock our babies with the same hands that were never held long enough. Escape plans and fight or flight rewired our frontal lobe from an early age. We were collateral damage in a desensitized society where addiction and criticism is more common than communication or praise. While others girls who step foot through our doors come from families that memorize and recite scripture or celebrate each holiday with family who cherish every memory that was made.

Tough exteriors with razor sharp tongues; labeled and stereotyped as "troubled" with unbreakable defiance characterized strictly on the basis of assumption, hearsay and wrong first impressions. Branded like a herd of cattle by some of the people with an obligation to guide and support, for example, a selection of support services and government agencies.

Mistreated, misunderstood and parentified; slowly losing sight, along with the value of life.

Following footprints similar to the ones left by many generations before, yet more prisoners to intergenerational cycles. Craving the warmth that comes after a bottle of liquid love, in the beginning we were simply numbing our emotions with substances. That was until it became the only way to feel a short lived surge of dopamine.

Personal experiences and observations led me to wonder if we are examples of the 'Nature vs Nurture' debate. While trying to decipher the significance of this theory and its various different debates, alongside the importance of each word individually, I understand that 'Nature' is referring to certain traits, behaviours, physical features among many other aspects. Whereas "nurture" describes the impact of environmental factors such as social interactions, life experiences and so on, and the impact these factors have on an individual's brain development. In my opinion and experience, nurture is the more fundamental aspect of this theory. The environmental features of one's childhood shape the

Kia ora koutou katoa, talofa lava, malo e lelei, bula vinaka, kia orana, mālo ni, buenos días. Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura nei. Ko Sarah McBride toku ingoa. Ko te kaiako matua ahau.

We all carry our time at school with us, whether we want to or not, whether we walked out the door for the last time as a student 60 years ago, or last year. How many of us would remember our school's motto? None that I know resonate more with me than the motto for He Huarahi Tamariki.

'Of course you can do it!'

I see this motto in action every day. Can I have a disruption in my life, a loving, engaging and precious disruption, and stay on track to pass NCEA Level 3? Of course you can do it! Can I wait, until the time is right, and then choose to come back to secondary education, to take that next step for a better life for me and my child? Of course you can do it! Can I navigate the world of case managers, property managers, lawyers, and others, some who are great, but others who don't always appear to have my best interests at heart? Of course you can do it! Can I produce a piece of writing to publish, so beautiful that it makes my reader cry? Of course you can do it!

Can I run a household on limited funds, have twins the first time around, drive great distances to be here, break a cycle, make goals and achieve them, create a healthy, safe and happy home, fight for myself and my children when I need to, put someone else's interests before my own, even though I might have thought I wasn't ready, make strong, authentic connections with my peers, lean on them, be leaned on, and every day demonstrate aroha, whanaungatanga and rangatiratanga? Of course you can do it!

Except, I think the motto needs some tweaking. It's not because others tell you that you can, you show that you can every day. This is your motto.

Of course I can do it!

Own your strengths. You are clever, hard working, loyal, responsible, organised, creative thinkers, resilient, problem solvers and massively empathetic. You are what the world needs right now. Can I be a successful business woman, police woman, nurse, lawyer, youth worker, personal trainer and parent? Of course I can.

To those who support our students and their tamariki from outside of school. Our whānau, our coaches, donors and volunteers. Thank you. Your support contributes to the success of the ākonga.

Finally, to our graduates. I am so excited to have you back here in years to come, to hear of your successes, the bumps in the road and how you overcame them. What is it that you will have taken from He Huarahi Tamariki? Hopefully, it is the knowledge, 'Of course I can do it!'

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou,
tēnā koutou katoa.

*Extract from Teacher in Charge
Sarah McBride's speech at Prize Giving 2025*

Inter-TPU trip!



Every year we have an inter-TPU event with the other TPUs in the lower North Island. It is often a Netball tournament, but this year we had a Quiz event hosted at Puawānanga Wairarapa Young Parents, at Makoura College in Masterton.

This had all the elements of a great day out: a road trip, good kai, fun activities, prizes at the end and, most importantly, the opportunity to leave having made new friends.

Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to talk with others in similar situations or with experiences like their own. We can't wait for a repeat in 2026!

Staff News

The end of 2025 sees us farewelling our guidance counsellor Jackie Agalawatta who is leaving us for retirement. Jackie's energy, enthusiasm and aroha will be missed here at HHT, but we wish her all the very best for her upcoming adventures.



We have also farewelled John Schofield, one of our van drivers, who is leaving to spend more time on the golf links and with family. To fill the gap he leaves, we have welcomed Lydia Jackson who is already a firm favourite with the babies.



Welcome to our New Babies!



Stormy, a girl —
Ataahua

Tepaeru, a girl —
Rita-Mae
(pictured left)

Dedication to Young Parents (continued)

nature of the child's psychological as well as emotional development.

We are young women and now mothers, previously described as a rapid wildfire, delinquents full of smoke and rage with self-destructive predispositions tainting the legacy of a family crest. Visual representation of toxic generational cycles, traumas passed down by our ancestors who walked this earth long before us, until we were each presented with the opportunity to rewrite our childhood through the eyes of our own. Every value and decision is altered by the butterfly effect, innocent souls once lost, paving their own paths, now have a second chance, with the foundation of guidance and unconditional support built by a community of people who have their own stories, strengths and struggles.

This is a sanctuary for young mothers determined to break generational cycles for their babies, operated by people who carry roles that are not included in their job description. The foundation does not crumble at the first sign of potential impact, only absorbs the weight of middle of the night feeds or the troubles that come with having a dysfunctional family.

We change the direction of our path under the assumption that if we alter the way we were nurtured it will change the nature of our children's lives. Reality slammed down in the way of our path blocking the gates to the Garden of Eden, is a wall length mirror. But what does this mean? Do we turn back or do we investigate the object in our way?

We sit at a desk pen in hand, scars covered by sleeves, achieving things that were once said to be impossible. Glances are traded across the room like life-lines, characterized as teenage mothers with debatable histories and no short-cut personalities. However, when we step foot through that front door we are simply soldiers who have fought different wars resulting in carrying battle scars, with plenty of similarities and a strong refusal to become a product of our environment.

The mirror does not just reflect our image. It is a symbol of exactly what needs to be done, a symbol of internal healing, silently explaining the first step to our new beginning. In order to provide our children with the natures they so deeply deserve, we need to rewrite the way in which we were shown how to nurture.

Doc Edge Film Festival 2025

On Thursday, the 24th of July, we went to the Roxy Cinema in Miramar to view the morning and afternoon screenings of films at the DocEdge Film Festival programme for schools.



In the morning session, we watched the film Mr. Nobody Against Putin. The film focuses on how schools and their communities have been affected during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Pavel Talankin was the videographer and events coordinator at Karabash Primary. It showed the transition of everyday school life into government propaganda displays. There were patriotic displays, state-written curriculum, visits from war groups, and grenade competitions. Pasha was initially tasked with uploading 'staged' footage to a state-run portal to prove their compliance, but this allowed him to gather more footage, to show a documentary producer living in Europe, he had been contacting. At the end of the film, he made the decision to leave Russia and go to Europe for his safety and to be able to get his film out to the world, so people can know what's happening in Russia.

This film was screened at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award.

In the afternoon session, we watched four short films. The first short film was about a musician, Mushtaq Hussain, fleeing his country due to death threats. His only way of escaping

was through a small boat out of Indonesia, which was an over-crowded and a horrible experience. The boat sank and he and others were forced to stay afloat in the ocean for three days before being rescued by the Australian Navy. His time with the Australians wasn't as he expected and he was forced to stay in a prison for several days without food or water. In the end he was invited to come as a refugee to Auckland, where he is still currently living. He believes that he was privileged to meet former Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, who had helped arrange his immigration to New Zealand.

Another of the short films was set on the Chatham Islands, about the Moriori people and their culture and the third was about a Fijian choir group, Primanavia. They had just six weeks to prepare for the World Choir Games, which they ended up winning. However, the short film that made the most impression on me was set in Wellington. It was about a Maori woman who was priced out of the Wellington rental market and chose to live on public land. She felt more connected to her ancestors while living off the land and chose to see the good in it instead of the bad. She wants people who are in that situation to know there's other ways to live off the land and people there to support them.



Thank you to the DocEdge Schools' Programme for providing us with the opportunity again this year to see these films.

Kaila Kie Tonga

He Huarahi Tamariki 2025 Special School Awards

Please join us in celebrating the recipients of the He Huarahi Tamariki 2025 special School Awards.



He Huarahi Tamariki Outstanding Attendance Award: Tennesse Ahu

He Huarahi Tamariki Contribution to Sports Award: Tennesse Ahu

Clifton Buck Memorial cup for Excellence in Writing (Level 3): Lily Glastonbury

He Huarahi Tamariki Excellence in Level 2 Writing:
Chorus Wright & Aria Eru (Absent)



He Huarahi Tamariki Values Award for Rangatiratanga: Tennesse Ahu

He Huarahi Tamariki Resilience & Attitude Award:
Tepaeru John



2025 Graduates & Scholarships

We are pleased to announce our Graduates for 2025 and what their plans are for 2026. Heartfelt thanks go to our donors and the He Huarahi Tamariki Trust for the scholarships that will support them.



Sara Carvajal Rivera — Zonta Mana Scholarship Certificate in Business – Administration & Technology – Level 3 (Whitireia & WelTec)

Kaila Kie Tonga — RNZCGP Scholarship Bachelor of Nursing – Māori (Whitireia & WelTec)



Tennesse Ahu — HHT Trust Scholarship in honour of the Spencer Family & The 502 E Tū Wahine Tuākana award Advance Health & Fitness Coach – Level 5 (NZIS)



Tia Whakaneke-Kaa — Graduate Women Wellington Scholarship & House of Grace Scholarship Bachelor of Nursing – Māori (Whitireia & WelTec)



Omapere Heke — HHT Trust Scholarship Bachelor of Nursing – Māori (Whitireia & WelTec)

Paris Hinton — HHT Trust Scholarship Bachelor of Design (Massey University)



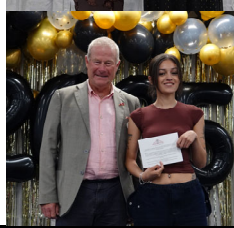
Liam Tawhai — Masonic Knights Templar Scholarship & Laptop Entering the workforce



Caitlyn Johanson — HHT Trust Memorial Brian & Pat Tyler Scholarship Diploma of Youth Work (Whitireia & WelTec)



Leone Sinafilili Malo — John McIntyre Award: Pre-Police Course (New Zealand Institute of Sport)



Shruti James — HHT Trust Scholarship Bachelor of Nursing (Whitireia & WelTec)



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 He Huarahi Tamariki Trust, Lottery Wellington/Wairarapa Community, Zonta Club of Mana, Ian Crabtree Charitable Trust, Porirua Women's Centre Trust, Gift Trust Fund, Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, Janet Gottschalk, Pat Lummis, Diana Shum, Levin Catholic Women's League, Beanies for Babies, Parish of Pauatahanui, Arise Church, The Nest Collective Wellington, The Kindness Collective, Loved for Life, The Salvation Army, and many others who donate used equipment and clothing.

Donations towards the work of the school (03-0547-0671844-000) are always welcome and donations to the graduate scholarship fund can be made to the HHT Trust (02-0548-0369188-000). Either of these are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.

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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He Huarahi Tamariki
School for Teenage Parents,
Wellington, NZ

“Of course you can do it”