



NUA NEWS

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Greetings everyone

And we have made it to the end of 2025!!

A huge thank you goes to our staff for their work throughout the year and for their commitment to seeing the very best learning opportunities provided for our students. Thank you also to our parents and community for partnering with us throughout the year. Working together to grow teenagers into successful young adults is a journey we share and celebrate together.

Well done to our students for the year they have had. Our junior and senior prizewinnings, as well as our earlier sports and culture awards highlighted the many achievements that have been gained throughout the year. We place significant emphasis on individual students making goals for themselves, and for these to be across all four of our pillars - Academic, Sport, Culture and Service. Seeing students achieve these goals by working hard and committing themselves to what is required to achieve them, is satisfying for everybody. As happens each year, I find myself immensely proud of what students achieve, many of whom have to overcome significant challenges to get there.

This newsletter contains so many of their experiences and achievements and as you read through it I know you will feel as proud as I do about these.

All the best for a happy and safe festive season.

Grant Congdon
Principal



Word from the Board

Kia ora koutou katoa

We are nearing the end of Term 4 and the start of a well-earned break for students and staff. It has been a busy term for the board, one in which we inducted new trustees and had our first meetings after our recent board elections. In November, we welcomed staff from the Education Review Office to the School. We appreciate the value of external reviews and consider ERO reviews an opportunity to showcase what we do well in the school, to improve our practice, and to focus on next steps to lift student achievement. We have also received enrolments from out-of-zone siblings in preparation for the implementation of the start of the Ministry-directed Enrolment Scheme in January 2026.

Our staff have been busy supporting students in completing end-of-year assessments and NCEA exams. There is considerable change in education and in curriculum subjects at the moment in New Zealand. The Board is always keen to invest in staff professional development and in learning resources to keep abreast of curriculum changes and deliver quality teaching.

Term 4 also offers numerous opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our tauira. I have so enjoyed attending the various prizegivings and awards ceremonies in recent weeks. It is always inspiring to see our students' successes across our four pillars of academic, sports, arts and culture, and service.

Thank you to all our students, parents, Manawhenua, and to members of our Horowhenua community for your contribution to the life of the school. On behalf of the board, I would like to extend our grateful thanks to our tumuaki, Mr Congdon and the Senior Leadership Team for all their mahi and commitment to Horowhenua College. Thanks also to our dedicated teaching and support staff. Thanks also to our board members for their service and to our wonderful board secretary Kate Searle. It is a delight to work alongside a group of talented board members: Megan Bolton (deputy chair), Manuila Tausi, Alex McMinn, Lisa Byrnes (parent representatives), Hanchen Johnson (staff representative) and Harrison McQuillan (student representative).

Wishing you all a relaxing Christmas and New Year break.
Ngā manaakitanga

Horowhenua College Board Chair (Presiding Member)



Prizegiving

Congratulations to our supreme award winners at our 2025 prizegivings.



Max Maclean - Dux.



Sasen Weerakkody & Tareesha Kiran - Proxime Accessit



Liubava Lugova - Top Year 9



Ashlee West - Top Year 10



Tiana Fryer (Deputy Head Girl), Imogen Williamson (Head Girl), Te Hokotuku Gardiner-Hokianga (Head Boy), Kāhu Newton (Deputy Head Boy)



Manawatu Sports Awards

On Thursday 23rd October 3 of our students were recognized at the Sport Manawatu Sports Awards for their outstanding contribution to sport in 2025. Ollie Kennett, Minnie Collins and Rawiri Tristram-Brown received nominations based off their excellent sporting performances in 2025.

Ollie (Student Athlete of the Year - Male) received awards at local, regional and national events in 2025 and went on to represent New Zealand in Aquathon where he competed in Spain at the World Triathlon Multi Sports Champs where he was placed as the 5th best 17 Year Old in the World.

Minnie (Student Athlete of the Year - Female) received awards at local, regional and national events in 2025 and competed for New Zealand Cycling in the Australasian Track Championships held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where she was part of Cycling New Zealand Junior Development Team.

Rawiri (Student Athlete of the Year with a Disability) has had an exceptional year in multiple codes where he played Wheelchair Basketball for Northland 'A' and was selected as a reserve for the RollerBlacks New Zealand Wheelchair Basketball team who headed away to the World Cup in Thailand despite being only 16 years old! He is a swimming champion where he took part in New Zealand short course swimming championships earlier this term and he achieved six PB's and set a New Zealand Age Group record in the 50 metre backstroke.





Multicultural Youth Council

Ten volunteer students from Horowhenua College, members of the new Multicultural Youth Council Horowhenua-Kāpiti, travelled to the Paraparaumu Library to meet and connect with young people from the Kāpiti area.

The presentation was led by Stella Obers, youth movement leader and newly appointed Social Action Prefect 2026 at Horowhenua College. Her inspiring work encouraged more young people to join this initiative that promotes inclusion, respect, and cultural celebration.

This new youth council has been strengthened thanks to the multicultural educational campaigns led by teacher Fernando Figueroa, whose work received the 2025 Wellington Regional Community Award in the category of Education, Youth and Child Development. The project is supported by the Horowhenua District Council and officially endorsed by the Human Rights Commission NZ, as the group is leading the national Give Nothing to Racism campaign in our region.

This gathering in Kāpiti marks an important step in building cultural bridges between our communities and shows the commitment of our young people to creating a more inclusive and respectful Aotearoa.





Innovation Challenge

A group of ten Year 10 students had the opportunity to be part of the Innovation Challenge jointly run by the Ministry for Primary Industries and Young Enterprise Scheme on 18th November.

The Challenge brought together students from around the region to Massey University's Manawatū campus. Students from Horowhenua College worked collaboratively in small groups with students from other schools to provide solutions to issues being faced in areas such as forestry, wool, sheep farming and food waste.

It was great to see students working collaboratively, channeling their creativity and applying knowledge from across curriculum. *Tino pai Year 10s!*





Cricket

Horowhenua College participated in the Year 9 and 10, T20 Central Districts Tournament which was the first major tournament our college has entered into for nearly a decade! The boys did exceptionally well and held their own coming up against some of the best junior college cricket sides in New Zealand!

Day 1

Wellington College B - 117/7 after 20 overs (P.Wall 3/17 off 4 overs, P.Spies 2/13 off 4 overs)
Horowhenua College - 97/5 after 20 overs (P.Wall 28)

Horowhenua College - 162/2 after 20 overs (B.O'Brien 53, P.Spies 53*, T.Grimstone 25*)
Wellington High School - 91/10 after 19.1 overs (B.O'Brien 2/17 off 3 overs)

Day 2

Horowhenua College - 123/8 after 20 overs (J.Leong 42)
Onslow Boys - 113/9 after 20 overs (B.O'Brien 2/17 off 4 overs, P.Wall 4/2 off 4 overs)

Kapiti College - 95/10 after 20 overs (P.Wall 4/9 off 4 overs, R.Monk 1/4 off 3 overs)
Horowhenua College 92/2 after 12.3 overs (B.O'Brien 52*, P.Grimstone 25*)

Day 3

Horowhenua College - 50/10 after 16 overs (P.Wall 26*)
Wellington College A - 50-1 after 7.2 overs

Horowhenua College - 141/2 after 20 overs (B.O'Brien 50, T.Grimstone 26*)
Whanganui Combined Colleges - 142-3 after 14.2 overs

Played 6, Won 3, Lost 3.

Thank you to everyone who helped during the week, especially Mr Kelly for coaching the side this year and getting cricket back up and running at our college! Congratulations boys on a phenomenal tournament.

We will see you all back again next year in Term 1 raring to go!





YES

On Thursday 4th December, students Harrison McQuillan, Liam Roach and Caitlin Hoy (ACCESSENTIAL) attended the Young Enterprise Scheme Nationals in Wellington to compete for the title of Lion Foundation Company of the Year.

During the day ACCESSENTIAL pitched to a panel of judges about their innovative trolley phone holders followed by answering a series of questions. The group did an excellent job of representing themselves and the College.

In the evening, in celebration of getting to Nationals, the team, their families and Miss Kelly attended the YES Gala Dinner. This was a fantastic evening showcasing the talent of young entrepreneurs across Aotearoa.

Well done to ACCESSENTIAL for making it to Nationals and the winning teams listed in the article here.

<https://youngenterprise.org.nz/.../yes-national-awards-2025>





Cultural Awards

On Tuesday, 21st October, we held our Cultural Awards. This was a wonderful evening full of celebration and talent. We had performances from Music, Dance and Drama as well as a Tuvaluan performance by our Lototaha group and three stunning waiata from our Rangatahi Ora Whānau.

The night was jam-packed with prizes, and the hall was decorated with our students' beautiful Art, Photography, Design, and Architecture work.

A huge mihi to all those who helped pull the evening together and to the parents and whānau that came to support.





Level 3 Folio Day





Battle of the Bibliophiles

Our Year 10 team recently took part in Battle of the Bibliophiles, a nationwide reading competition inspired by the SLANZA Readers Cup. In this challenge, teams of students read a selection of 12 books and then compete in an online, timed quiz answering questions about each text. The quiz is open-book, meaning students can refer to the books as they work together to recall details, analyse characters, and show their deep understanding of the stories.

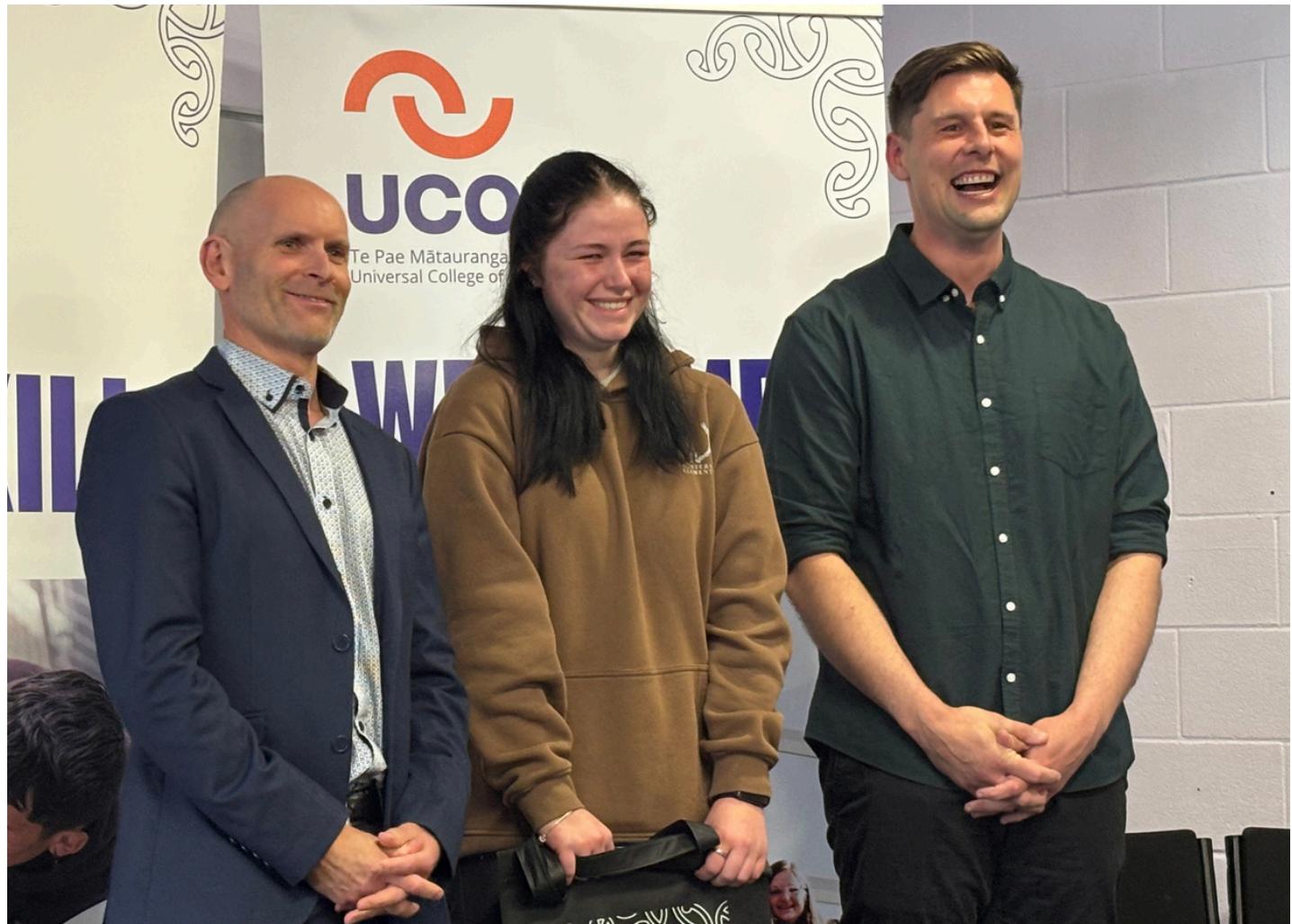
Our team worked brilliantly together, with Ashlee providing fabulous leadership as team captain. They impressed us with their enthusiasm, teamwork and genuine love of reading throughout the competition.

The students really enjoyed the experience and we're so proud of their effort, collaboration and passion for books!





U-Skills Graduation





Architecture Folio Day

The Level 2 and 3 Architecture students put in the hard mahi in October trying to pull together final assessments and exhibition material for the Cultural Awards. They spent the whole day in S10 (two periods of that combined with the year 11's!) in a portfolio day of creative chaos. What a dream team!





Survival Trip

Year 13 Outdoor Education students took on the challenge of a three-day survival trip in October, stepping off the beaten track to test their skills and resilience. With no tents – just natural shelters and flys – they learned to live simply and work together in the wild. Over the course of the journey, students mastered fire lighting, navigated off-trail terrain, and gained a real appreciation for what it takes to thrive in the New Zealand bush.





Level 3 Biology

The regular trip to the Manawatu Estuary was held in Term 4. The students quickly mastered the technique of catching the crabs before getting to work and carrying out their own investigations. Most students chose to look at the aggressive interactions between crabs and link these to a factor in the estuary environment like temperature.

This trip provides the students with the opportunity to develop their practical biological skills and data collection and analysis. Working within the animal ethics guidelines also introduces students to how we should work with animals to minimise the amount of stress we put animals under in our science experiments. The students have completed their reports to link their newly acquired biological knowledge that they have learnt in Level 3 Biology this year to an aspect of one of our local environments. Godwits had started arriving back at the estuary from their long migration and this provided another valuable teaching opportunity.





Evolocity

Over the last few months a few Engineering students have been working to create an electric vehicle to race at the Evolocity challenge. Levin Intermediate let us use their large polystyrene brain that was left over from their showquest production, and we built the go-kart to fit inside.

The race was a huge success for us and despite not placing, our students won the Show Stopper award, had an absolute blast, and demonstrated the school spirit well.





Waharoa

At the end of October our Waharoa class proudly showcased their mau rākau skills to whānau and our Rangatahi Ora teina. As part of their assessment, students performed a series of movements focused on tūwaewae (footwork) and toroparawae (hand and foot movements), including āhai (stances), pao (strikes), and karo (blocks).

With deliberate and confident stances, showing discipline, control, and intent in every movement, our students demonstrated their commitment to learning and upholding the mātauranga and traditions of mau rākau.

It was a privilege to watch our rangatahi stand strong, honour their learning, and carry forward the tikanga of our ancestors with pride and mana.

Mauri tū, mauri ora!

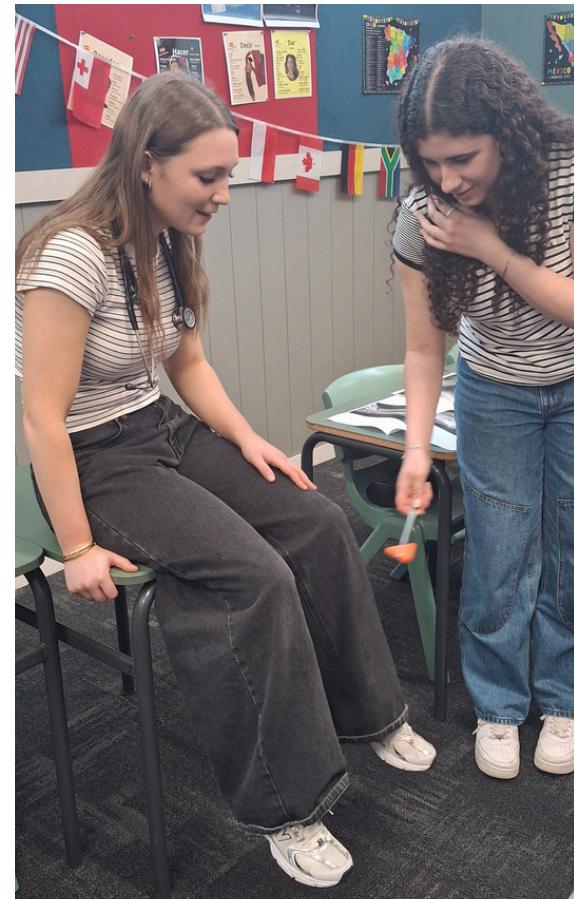




Rural Health Careers

We were privileged to have the Rural Health careers team visit us in Term 4. They presented a range of careers in health and finished with a number activities that the students were able to interact with.

Emily (Y9 student) "It was really interesting and fun. I think I might want to do Psychology when I get older".





Activities Week

Our Year 9 & 10 Students enjoyed a variety of activities during the last week of school.





Activities Week





Activities Week





Activities Week





Waka Ama

Well done to Chino So'o, Maxi Fonotī, Spencer Nau, Ajay Nau, Carlos Fonotī, Scarlett Fonotī, Le'u Toleafoa and Samoana So'o who competed at the Waka Ama club regionals at Lake Henley in Masterton. Results attached.

Samoana also paddled in the W1 getting the second fastest time in the 500 metre sprint race over 16 other paddlers in the J16 grade. She also placed 3rd overall in the J19 250 metre sprint dash race.

They head to nationals under the Hawaikinui Tuarua Waka Ama club at Lake Karapiro in Jan 2026.





Service Academy Prizegiving





Senior Prizegiving





Senior Prizegiving





Senior Prizegiving





Junior Prizegiving





Junior Prizegiving





College Contact Details

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We also use our facebook for updates

<https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaCollege>



Term 1 2026 Dates

Monday 2 February

8.45am - 3.10pm Year 9 Students Orientation Day 1 with Peer Support Buddies. Bring device, pen and paper. Gather at the front of the college at 8.50am for the Year 9 Powhiri. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend. Students to be in uniform.

Tuesday 3 February

8.45am - 3.10pm Year 9 Student Orientation Day 2 with Peer Support Leaders.

Wednesday 4 February

8.45am - 3.10pm Year 9 Student Orientation Day 3 with Peer Support Leaders

Thursday 5 February

8.45am - 3.10pm Year 9 Student Orientation Day 4 with Peer Support Leaders

Friday 6 February

Waitangi Day Holiday

Monday 9 February

8.45am Classes start for all year levels