



NUA NEWS

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Greetings everyone

Term 2 2026

I am always astounded as to how many activities, events and opportunities are made available for our students. As well as all the creative learning programmes that teachers provide, our students have had an extremely busy and engaging term. With this term being 11 weeks long instead of the normal ten, this means even more events have taken place than normal.

I am very aware that for these events and activities to be made available for our students, significant work is required. I am therefore very appreciative to our teachers, parents, and community members who invest into our students through this work. Lifetime memories are created through what they experience during their time at college, and many of these will be seen as you read through this end of term newsletter.

Nga mihi, Tofa soifua, Kind regards
Grant Congdon
Principal



Word from the Board

Kia ora koutou katoa

We've reached the end of Term 2, and the pages of this newsletter reflect the wide range of service, sport, culture, arts and academic achievements of our rangatahi, many of which featured on our Facebook page throughout the term. Horowhenua College Board is committed to providing a range of opportunities at school to enable students to identify and embark on their chosen pathways into employment and/or further education or training. We recently held the College Open Evening and it was great to showcase the diverse range of learning opportunities across our 'four pillars' to potential students and caregivers.

It has been a challenging term for the board. As you may be aware, the board dismissed a teacher recently. We are very mindful of our responsibilities to safeguard the safety and well-being of our students and are guided by policies and procedures that help us act in line with best practice across all aspects of the school – you can access these at any time on our website: horowhenua.school.nz/policies/. We have also made counselling available and will continue to do so for any students who may be affected by this news.

On a brighter note, it was a real delight to attend FiaFia night and Pasifika Fusion in the last week of the term, and to witness our Pasifika students take such pride in celebrating their culture through a range of activities from cultural performances to cinematography, essays, wearable arts, music, science, art and speech writing. Over 650 students participated in Pasifika Fusion, and we are thrilled to see Lototaha, our Horowhenua College group, excel – taking out first prize for cultural performance and first equal for points across a range of categories entered. Success like this is not possible without all the staff, parents, and community volunteers who support our students across the many activities we undertake at College. Thank you to you all – we look forward to more success in term 3!

Ngā mihi nui

Juliana Mansvelt

Horowhenua College Board Presiding Member



Journalism

Students from Whaea Talula's Arts Journalism class went on a class trip to Wellington to document public art in relation to its environment for their upcoming internal assessments. Students will be using their notes and images to create podcasts or informative tour guide brochures about the art in Wellington city.

As an added bonus the group also saw a group of stingrays being fed in the harbour and rode the cable car back up the hill to the school van before returning home and had a great day out.





Year 9 Architecture



From top left to right: Azalea McLaughlin, Kian Lloyd, Demelsa Buautoa, Kingston Winiata, Anson Lin, Senithu Jagoda, Alex Townsend, Mikayle Balraj.

The year 9 option rotation students doing the 12 week taster of Architecture have been learning some basic design process, 3D manual drawing and rendering skills as part of their course. These are some of the awesome design students did last term. The brief was to design a minihome for a holiday location of their choice.



Swimming

On Sunday 3rd of May, Horowhenua College sent a team of swimmers to compete in the Interschool Swimming Competition at PNBHS Pool. The team was comprised of:

- Jack Kennett
- Ashlee West
- Emele Waqa
- Luanne Blackaby
- Istuki Komikado
- Jerry Cao
- Alex Branagh

Over the afternoon, the team won 9 🥇, 4 🥈, 6 🥉. Many of our swimmers swam personal best times and everyone had fun participating in the relays and supporting each other in and out of the water.

Many thanks to Jerry's dad (Yang) for managing the team, and to all of the swimmers who represented Horowhenua College with pride!





Author Visit

On Tuesday afternoon, a group of our students had the exciting opportunity to meet author Mary-anne Scott.

Mary-anne visited students who have been preparing for the Readers' Cup and Battle of the Bibliophiles competitions. Having read her novel *The Mess of Our Lives* as part of their preparation for the upcoming Readers' Cup competition at St Peter's College, students were able to gain a unique insight into the creative process behind the book. Throughout the workshop, Mary-anne shared her writing journey, discussed her approach to developing ideas and characters, and guided students through a range of engaging writing exercises. It was a valuable experience that encouraged students to think creatively, develop their writing skills, and deepen their appreciation of literature.

A big thank you to Mary-Anne Scott for taking the time to visit our kura and provide such an inspiring and memorable experience for our students!





Sunflower Growing Competition

Mrs Congdon's Year 10 class recently had a sunflower growing competition. The sunflowers were grown in term 1 and measured at the start of term 2. This was a very fun activity and although most of the class got a plant to this stage, some didn't make it.

Winners:

Tallest sunflower , Roman Tafeamaalii, 57.5cm

Widest sunflower, Joshua Tauro, 18cm

Weirdest shape plant, Erin Gutsell, 4 bends in the stem!





Services Academy

For one week, 6 students from the Horowhenua Services Academy left the classroom behind to step into the disciplined environment of RNZAF Base Ohakea. The Basic Leadership Course is designed to challenge young people physically, mentally, and emotionally while building confidence, teamwork, resilience, and leadership.

From the moment we arrived at the base, the pace changed. Time management, attention to detail, and self-discipline all became part of everyday life. Throughout the week, we rotated through a variety of leadership and military-inspired activities, including:

- Leadership exercises where we took turns leading small teams.
- Communication drills that required clear instructions under pressure.
- Problem-solving scenarios where teamwork was the key to success.
- Navigation and field exercises using maps and teamwork.
- Confidence-building activities that encouraged us to step outside our comfort zones.
- Team challenges where every member contributed towards achieving a common goal.
- Rather than competing against each other, we quickly learnt that success depended on working together.

Throughout the course, instructors observed how we communicated, motivated others, solved problems, and supported teammates during difficult situations.

We were encouraged to demonstrate qualities such as:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Commitment
- Courage
- Initiative
- Accountability

Each activity provided opportunities for different students to step forward and lead. The course was demanding but rewarding.

Meals were shared together, accommodation followed military standards, and everyone was expected to contribute equally. Time was carefully managed, uniforms were worn correctly, and teamwork became second nature.

Learning didn't stop after dinner. Evenings often included leadership reflections, team discussions, planning exercises, equipment preparation, or guest presentations from serving Defence Force personnel who shared their experiences and career pathways.

We returned home with improved confidence, stronger communication skills, greater self-discipline, and a better understanding of what effective leadership looks like.

Service Academy: Jahzel Wairau and Hope Paxton



Services Academy





YES

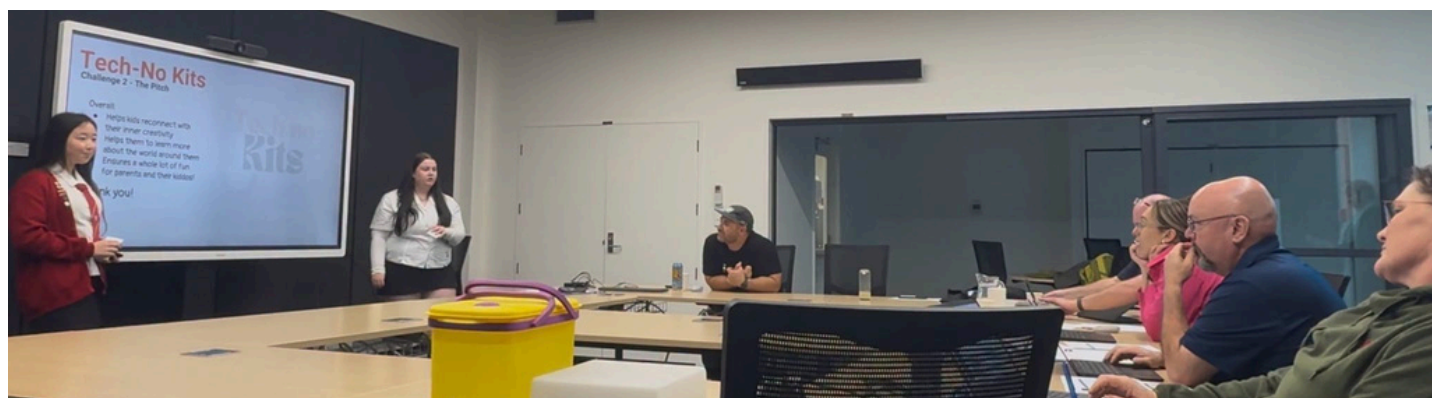
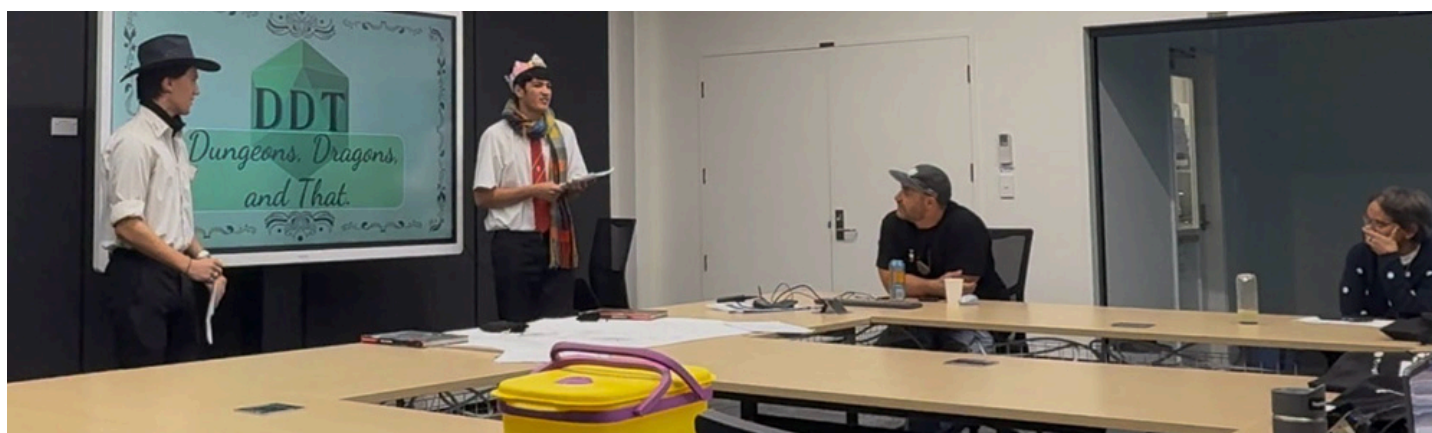
Well done to Francisco McKenzie and Ashlee West with the success of their business, Go-Clip. The pair recently won the Young Enterprise Scheme Manawatu/Whanganui regional pitch challenge.

The Go-Clip is an innovative clip which helps with carrying sports equipment to solve having limited space in school bags.

The challenge took place at UCOL Palmerston North and students pitched to a panel of business professionals who listened to the entrepreneurial ideas of many rangatahi. Horowhenua College was also represented by two other business groups, Dungeons, Dragons and That (Keanu Samuelu and Ryatt Fox) and Tech No Kits (Katelyn De Kort and Kana Komikado).

Ashlee and Francisco won a cash prize to put towards their production costs.

The pitches provided valuable feedback and we look forward to seeing the progress made as each group moves into selling and promoting their products.





Connexis Girl with Hi-Vis

Females only account for about 18% of employees in the Infrastructure and Trade Industries in general. Girls with Hi-Vis (GWHV) aims to change that!

Girls with Hi-Vis gives female students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, hear from inspirational women in the industry and learn what a career in the infrastructure industries, as well as other important trade sectors, can offer.

On Wednesday Mrs Congdon took a group of students out to the Levin event. It was a great day, the girls were fantastic, they were really engaged, interested, and appreciative for what was presented and the activities provided.

Thank you again to Connexis Girls with Hi-Vis for a awesome opportunity.





Market Day

Students in Level 1, 2 and 3 Commerce had an awesome time hosting Market Day in the College hall on Thursday June 25th. Students had taken the time to cost, produce and sell their goods in the hopes of making plenty of profit. All groups did very well!

Keep an eye out for the Senior Night Market Level 2 and 3 are hosting which will be open to the community Thursday July 30th.





Big Sing

During Week 9, 34 of our singing students travelled to The Regent Theatre to take part in The Big Sing Regional Choir Competition. We sang three pieces to fit in with the three categories of Choral, NZ Music and Open. Our students did so well with it being the first time going for over half our choir. A big shout out to our accompanists. We were able to play all of our songs live which was a stand out. Finally, a big thank you to prefect Anelisabeth Faavale for conducting two of our pieces.





40 Hour Famine

Congrats to Year 11 student Charlie McQuillan who on Saturday 13th June ran 42.2km for the 40 hour challenge in a time of 3 hours, 38 minutes and 38 seconds!





Media Studies

On Friday 19th June, the senior Media Studies students visited Massey University in Wellington to gain an insight into what studying towards a Bachelor of Communication might involve.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of workshops focused on digital media, journalism, creative communication & social change, and public relations & digital promotions. They also had the opportunity to tour the campus, explore the facilities, and hear about the different pathways available to them after school. It was a fantastic day that gave students valuable hands-on experience, exposed them to potential future career opportunities, and helped them better understand the skills and knowledge required in the communications industry.

A big thank you to the staff and students at Massey University for hosting us and providing such an informative and inspiring experience!





Golf

Horowhenua Golf Team continue to shine claiming 2 out of the 3 trophies available in the Manawatu and Whanganui Secondary Schools Championship hosted at Levin Golf Club.

The team; William Dunsmore (C), Taylor Grimstone, Bostyn O'Brien, Philip Spies, Phoenix Wall and Samuel Chamberlain.

They all played exceptionally well and represented the college with great pride! The round of the tournament went to William Dunsmore who shot a 68 to card -4 for the day. His performance was outstanding and enough for him to claim the Manawatu/Whanganui Individual Champion Golfer Trophy for the second year in a row.

Phoenix Wall played in his first college golf event and won the stableford lowest score of the day award which is a points based scoring system to make it two from two trophies available. As defending team champions, our team came 4th overall. A massive congratulations to our winners and team on a great day out!





Tough Guy & Gal Challenge

Last month our Y13 PE students went to Wainui to race in the Tough Guy & Gal mud run. There were obstacles to climb under, over and through, with a huge hill and lots of mud! The students all competed well and received 4 credits for their times! Mrs Craies is super proud.





10 Health Plus

The Year 10 Health Plus students have been learning about resilience and practical strategies to strengthen it. During Term 2, students had the opportunity to visit Prime Performance and experience ice baths as a way of challenging themselves while exploring the connection between cold exposure and mental wellbeing.

Many students reflected that the cold water encouraged them to focus on slow, deep breathing, which helped them stay calm throughout the experience. They also learned how controlled breathing can help activate the vagus nerve, supporting relaxation and reducing the body's stress response. It was a valuable opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones and develop resilience in a safe and supportive environment.





Outdoor Education

Mrs Craies' Outdoor Ed class have had two awesome experiences hiking this term so far. They have been learning about how to navigate using maps, how to identify features in the outdoors and risk management while tramping. The first hike was at Arcus Loop, which was the first chance to show their nav skills and then they completed the Paekākāriki Escarpment Track. Despite the rain, the spirits were high and the students are looking forward to their final hike at Poads Road later this month!



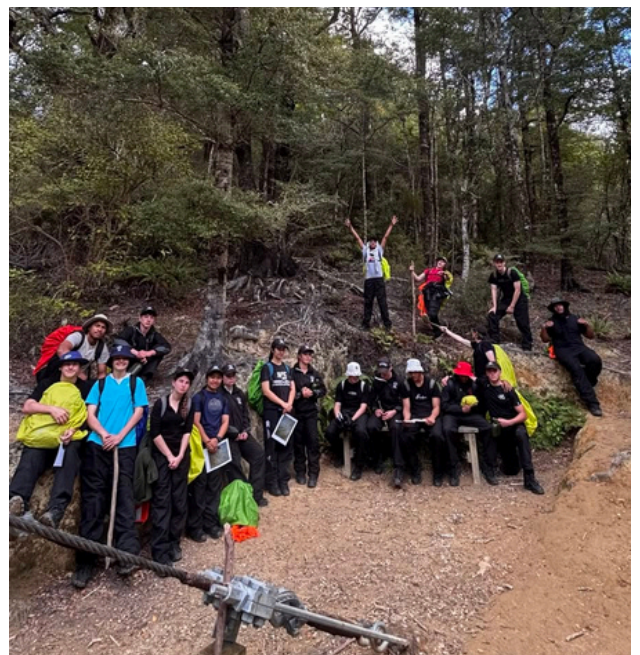


Services Academy Bushcraft

Our Services Academy students have been in the Remutaka ranges for a bushcraft course.

Students are completely immersed in backcountry environments and learn core wilderness skill. Some of the skills they learn are survival skills in which they build improvised shelters, light fires using flint and steel, and source water. They also learn navigation skills such as map reading, compass use and route planning.

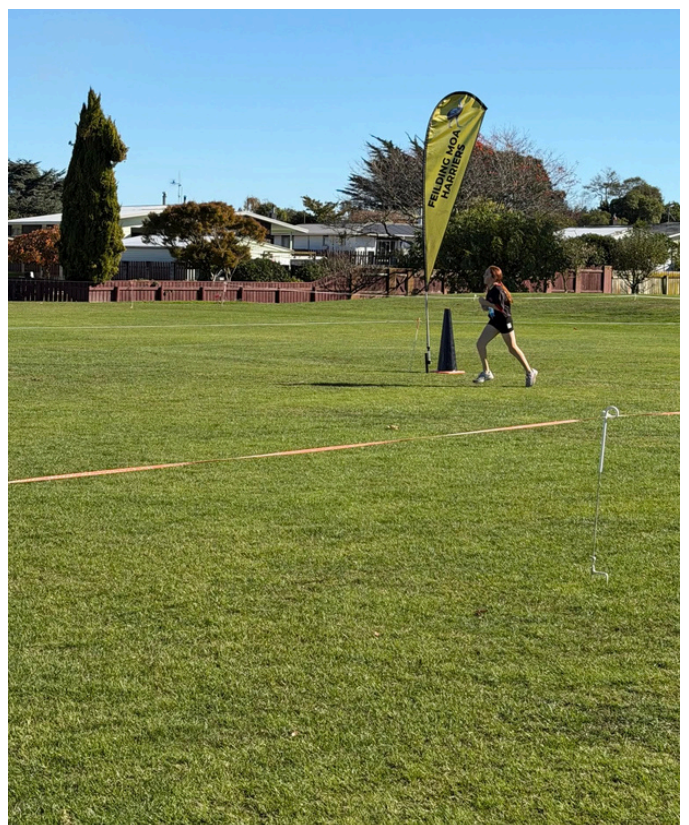
This is a fantastic course for our students and we are thankful to the NZ defence force for providing this opportunity for our academy.





Interschool Cross Country

Congratulations to our students who competed in the interschools cross country!





Careers Expo

On 21st May, we took a group of Year 12 & 13 students to the Tahatu Careers Expo, this was a great success for students and we hope they took something away from this for their own career pathway.





Footnote

What a treat! Our dance students made their way to Wellington to watch the amazing show preformed by Footnote - Modern God 🥰 Awesome show, amazing talent, great story!!!





Heretaunga Exchange

On Tuesday 12th May, we hosted Heretaunga in our 11th annual sports exchange. The day was set up for 8 games of sport with Jnr A Netball, Snr A Netball, 1st XI Boys Football, 1st XI Girls Football, 1st XI Boys Hockey, 1st XI Girls Hockey, Jnr Boys Basketball and Snr Boys Basketball all competing in the hope to earn Horowhenua College enough points to retain the shield.

We were delighted to win the exchange 5-3 on points and retain the shield for another year.

Results on the day;

Jnr A Netball 39-14 WIN

Snr A Netball 29-15 WIN

1st XI Boys Football 4-2 LOSS

1st XI Girls Football 5-0 LOSS

1st XI Boys Hockey 5-3 WIN

1st XI Girls Hockey 5-0 WIN

Jnr Boys Basketball 55-23 WIN

Snr Boys Basketball 38-26 LOSS.

A huge thank you to all our coaches, managers and volunteers who made themselves available and took time off work to coach or manage their team on the exchange. We are extremely lucky to have you looking after our rangatahi. A massive thank you to all our officials who again took time off to officiate all our games. Without you all the exchange wouldn't have been possible! And lastly, a huge thanks to Heretaunga for making the trip up to us to compete. We loved hosting you guys and can't wait for the return leg in 2027!





Heretaunga Exchange





Heretaunga Exchange





Te Aute

This term we hosted Te Aute College for our annual rugby exchange. This was a fantastic day and we are very proud of our students and the way they both conducted themselves and played rugby.

Congratulations to Te Aute for winning both games and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Youth XV - 50 - 12 (Te Aute Win)

1st XV - 24 - 19 (Te Aute Win)





ANZAC Day





ANZAC ASSEMBLY





LifeWise Sleepout

Imogen Williamson took part in the LifeWise Sleepout in Auckland as part of the Future CEO Programme. Only 25 students from across New Zealand were selected for the programme, which provides young leaders with opportunities to develop their leadership, networking, and professional skills through workshops, mentoring, virtual sessions, and projects throughout the year.

As part of the programme, students give back to their communities by participating in the LifeWise Sleepout, an event that brings together business leaders, community members, and supporters from across the country to raise funds and awareness for people experiencing homelessness in Aotearoa. Taking part in the event was a meaningful way for her to give back to the community while supporting an issue she cares about.





Pasifika Fusion

Pasifika Fusion 2026 was bigger and better than ever. Horowhenua College took 76 students to the Regent to compete this year. We had students enter into all 12 categories. Cultural, Wearable Arts, Drama, Debate, Quiz, Essay, Speech (English), Speech (Pacific Language), Visual Arts, Talent, Cinematography, and Science. Students worked extremely hard over 5 months preparing for the competition. A huge thank you to all our families who have supported us throughout this journey and to the parents who helped supervise at the event and have given up their time to support our fundraisers. We also want to send a special thank you to the staff, tutors and drummers who helped design the 2026 Cultural Bracket! The results we achieved on this night are a testament to all the hard work that has gone into preparing for the competition.

Pasifika Fusion 2026 Results

1st Overall Equal

1st Cultural

1st Wearable Arts: Ryla Rosson

1st Cinematography: Hope and Pati Tavita

1st Visual Arts: Manea Taumoepeau

1st Dance: Anelisabeth Tua-Faavale

1st Senior Essay: Emele Waqa

1st Talent Solo: Omatata Tausi

1st Junior Poetry: Mila-Pearl Liliva

1st Kiribati Junior: Sue Takaria

1st Senior Poetry: Leu Toleafoa

2nd Senior Poetry: Neve Telea

3rd Senior Poetry: Pati Tavita

2nd Junior Essay: Ryla Rosson

3rd Junior Essay: Beatrice Taumoepeau

2nd Drama

2nd Science: Teuosina Taomia, Kaitalo and Gloria P Taomia.

We look forward to seeing what Pasifika Fusion 2027 has to offer!





Pasifika Fusion





Pasifika Fusion





College Contact Details

Email: office@horowhenua.school.nz
Telephone: 063686159 or 0800 467694
Website: www.horowhenua.school.nz

We also use our facebook for updates
<https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaCollege>



Term 3 2026 Dates

Monday 20 July
Term 3 Begins

Monday 31 August - Friday 4 September
Winter Tournament Week

Monday 7 September - Friday 11 September
Annuals Week

Monday 7 September - Friday 18 September
Literacy & Numeracy Common Assessment Activities (CAAs)

Monday 14 September - Friday 18 September
Derived Grades Exams

Friday 25 September
End of Term 3