



## NUA NEWS

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Greetings everyone

**Term 3 2026**

Term 3 is always a very busy term and is full of assessments and activities. It ends with winter sports tournament week, followed by annuals week, followed by literacy and numeracy assessments, followed by derived grade exams. It is therefore always good to get to the end of term 3 and look back on what has taken place. I am constantly amazed at the capacity and ability of our students to achieve. There have been many highlights – far too many for me to talk about, so I invite you to read this end of term newsletter and enjoy finding out about some of what has kept us busy this last term.

Nga mihi, Tofa soifua, Kind regards

Grant Congdon

Principal





# Word from the Board

Kia ora koutou katoa

Term 3, often the busiest term in the school calendar, has come to an end. This newsletter gives you a glimpse of what has happened in the life of the school this term and the significant achievements of many of our ākonga.

This term, we farewelled Harrison McQuillan as Student Representative and welcomed our new Student Representative, Keanu Samuelu, to the board. We are so grateful for Harrison for his service, contribution and participation in board meetings over the last year, and look forward to working with Keanu. We really value our student representatives in bringing student voice and perspectives to the board table. The Board has continued its review of policies in Term 3, this term focusing on our governance processes (which determine how the board acts and its relationship with management) and are currently rewriting our Health and Safety policy. Much of one of our meetings was spent in conversation with the Heads of Faculties, looking at student achievement, what is working, what is not, and identifying next steps in delivering teaching that engages, lifts expectations, and supports our students' learning. Sitting in these meetings always makes us appreciate the mahi that our teaching and support staff undertake in order to enhance teaching and learning across all subjects taught at college.

You may have seen the recent media reporting about Horowhenua College. We are working with the Ministry of Education to respond to concerns raised with them. The Board takes its responsibility to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment and to govern and oversee the school effectively, very seriously. We have clear policies and processes in place and regularly seek independent governance advice to help ensure we meet our obligations and our community's expectations.

The Board has not received any formal complaints directly. If concerns are raised with the school, we will manage them through our complaints process. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about the College's governance or management, we encourage you to contact us directly. We are committed to ensuring members of our community feel heard and confident in how concerns are addressed.

Wishing those of you who have holidays a wonderful break, and we look forward to our final term of the year.

Ngā mihi nui  
Juliana Mansvelt  
Presiding Member





# School Ball







# School Ball







# Whanaungatanga Day

Ka mutu pea te pai o tēnei rā - he rā whakawhanaungatanga ki ngā kura tuarua o te rohe, otirā he rā whakanui i tō tātou reo Māori. Karawhiua te reo kia rere!

What an amazing day at Manawatū College celebrating Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori and our annual Whanaungatanga Day! Today's tākarō Māori was Horo Hopu, or Poi Toa - a game similar to netball, where a large poi is passed between players down the court before being thrown to the kaitiaki in the scoring zone.

Played between Manawatū, Waiopahu, Ōtaki and Horowhenua Colleges, this year marks the 10th year of this kaupapa. What an awesome milestone!

A huge mihi to our hosts for their incredible manaakitanga. The games were played in good spirit, with plenty of laughs, lots of fun and everyone enjoying the day. And of course, we finished off with some beautiful kai. E kore e mutu ngā mihi ki a koutou o te kāreti o Manawatū, nāu nei tō tātou kaupapa i manaaki i tēnei rā!







# Baseball

Year 12 student Ronan Kjestrup recently returned from a baseball trip to USA.

His team represented the New Zealand region at 75th Babe Ruth Baseball World Series in Branson, Missouri. The highlight of the trip was the performance against Mexico. Although a narrow loss they took one of the best teams in the tournament to extra innings.

The PAC-MEN team also took in major league baseball games and had college visits to experience what it might be like to go to university in the USA.

Ronan's baseball journey started with Levin Hustle Baseball club and opportunities provided by Southern Cross Diamond Sports.







# Dance NZ Made

What a day! Each and every year our students and choreographers aim to set the bar higher with every performance. With 7 crews competing this year, we staged 59 students, 4 soloist and 2 duos.

We came away with the following:

MAFA - 3rd Place year 9/10 section

Jazz Mega - 5th Place Open section

One Beat Dance Academy - 2nd Place Open section (Qualifying for Nationals)

MANIC - 2nd Place year 11-13 section (Qualifying for Nationals)

Manuhiri - 1st Place year 11-13 section (Qualifying for Nationals)

Manuhiri - 3rd Overall

Niyah Henare-Pearson - 1st Place Year 9 Solo (Qualifying for Nationals)

Elloise Collis - 1st Place Year 12 Solo (Qualifying for Nationals)

Ayla Paparoa - 2nd Place Year 11 Solo (Qualifying for Nationals)

Elloise & Ayla - 1st Place Year 11-13 Duo/Trio (Qualifying for Nationals)

Elloise & Ayla - 1st Place Overall Duo/Trio

Anelisabeth Tua Faavale, Niyah Henare-Pearson and Ayla Paparoa all received an invitation to attend New Zealand School of Dance for a workshop day in December.

Ava Martin, Annabelle Donaldson, Anelisabeth Faavale and Lily-Ann Van Wyk also received Gold Tickets to attend the National Gold Awards in January.

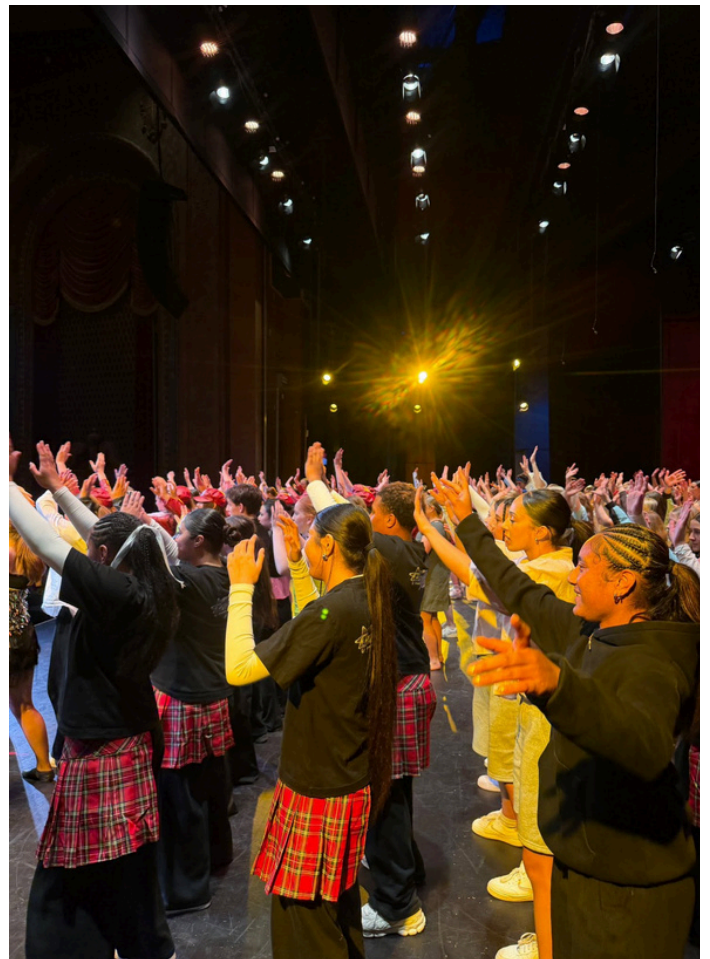
A huge shoutout to our student choreographers for this year, Eilidh Anderson, Anelisabeth Faavale, Ayla Paparoa, Elloise Collis, Maioha Kiriona and Tiana Fryer for all their hard work and energy put into creating such amazing pieces.







# Dance NZ Made







# Get - Go & Architecture Plus

Kirsty Chamberlain from Architecture Plus recently visited Horowhenua College, giving students a glimpse into the world of architecture.

Kirsty shared her career and life journey and showed students that architecture is about much more than designing buildings – it's about creativity, problem-solving, understanding people and telling a story through design. She encouraged students to think about what makes them happy and how their interests could shape their future career.

Student feedback showed they came away with a broader understanding of architecture, including the variety of projects architects work on and the time and hard work involved.

A big thank you to Kirsty and Architecture Plus for sharing real-world experience and inspiring our rangatahi.







## U18 Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby

Well done to Tooma Taubaaki, Ezra Masoe, Dayton Luka and Lebron Hirini who made their debut for the U18 HK rep team against Whanganui on Saturday 5th September at the Levin Domain.



## Waterpolo

Year 10 student Alex Branagh competed in the U16 Sunny Bay Waterpolo Tournament in Hawke's Bay with the Manawatu team. Throughout the tournament, Alex managed to score 4 goals. Whilst the results didn't always go their way, it was a great learning experience for the team in preparation for nationals in October.







# Rock Climbing

Mrs Craies' Outdoor Ed class had their authentic rock climbing experience at Moffat's rock. They demonstrated key belaying and rock climbing skills and many stepped out of their comfort zone. Mrs Craies was super proud! A huge thanks to the Moffat family for allowing our students to access their farm, and to instructor Alex for sharing his experience and skills with the students.







# Golf

Congratulations to William Dunsmore who on Saturday 22 August won the Sims Cup at the Otaki Golf Competition. He also placed second in the Open Competition, Gray Memorial.

Williams next step is a fantastic one as he has been chosen for the Jack Newton International Junior Classic which is an exciting opportunity to compete on the international stage over in Australia.







# Tourism

Recently, our Senior Tourism class had the opportunity to spend two days and one night at PIHMS in New Plymouth.

PIHMS (Pacific International Hotel Management School) provides a unique environment perfectly simulating the hotel industry, reflected throughout its entire education process. Students are challenged and inspired, developing attitudes, skills and knowledge enabling a seamless transition into the workplace. Students will enjoy a hands-on experience in a range of hospitality roles.

Our students were shown around the school, met students and mentors, and even got to shadow students to see what a normal day at PIHMS could look like. They also got involved in setting up a restaurant, which was really amazing because we got to experience what it would actually be like working in the hospitality industry.







# Year 13 Physical Education

Y13 PE students had the opportunity to experience a variety of different physical activities; Reformer Pilates at Studio Rubix, Cloud9 tramp park, a session at Crossfit MANA, High Ropes at Adrenalin Forest and the Te Onepoto walking track.

The purpose of these experiences was to encourage students to challenge their ideas around what physical activity is, and to inspire them to continue to be active once they leave school







# Shave for a Cure

We had four students participate in Shave for a Cure.

Every day, 8 Kiwis are diagnosed with blood cancers like leukaemia, lymphoma, or myeloma. They can hit anyone, at any age, out of the blue.

By shaving, cutting, or colouring their hair and fundraising, our kids have joined a movement of thousands united to make sure no one ever has to face blood cancer alone.

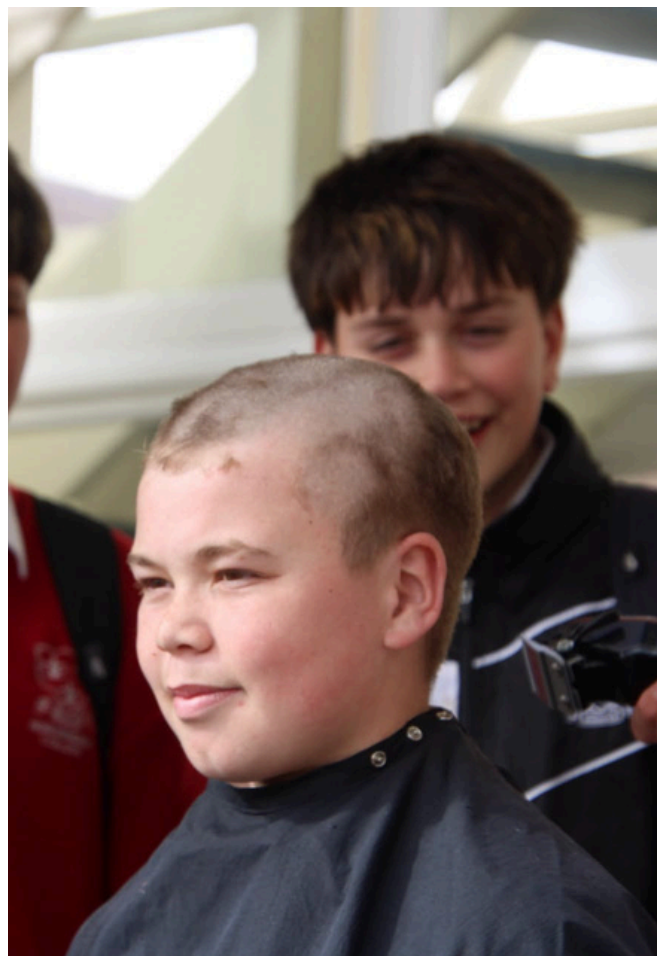
Well done to Jethro, Lincoln, Bella and Ren who shaved and cut their hair for the cause!







# Shave for a Cure







# Tagata Moana

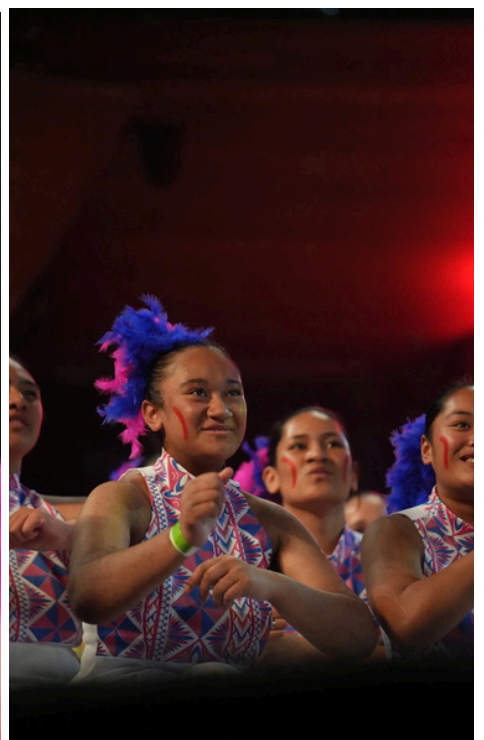
What an incredible day for our Lototaha Pasifika group!

They proudly represented Horowhenua College at Tagata Moana, the Wellington Region Secondary Schools Pasifika Competition, placing 2nd overall!

A huge highlight was receiving the Rosa Tui'italili Legacy Award for Creativity, Musicality & Originality, a special recognition of the unique energy and creativity our students brought to the stage.

We are incredibly proud of our students, tutors, parent helpers and everyone who supported Lototaha along the way.

A huge thank you to Ethan for the photos. Check out @Visualbytana over on Instagram for more of his fantastic work.

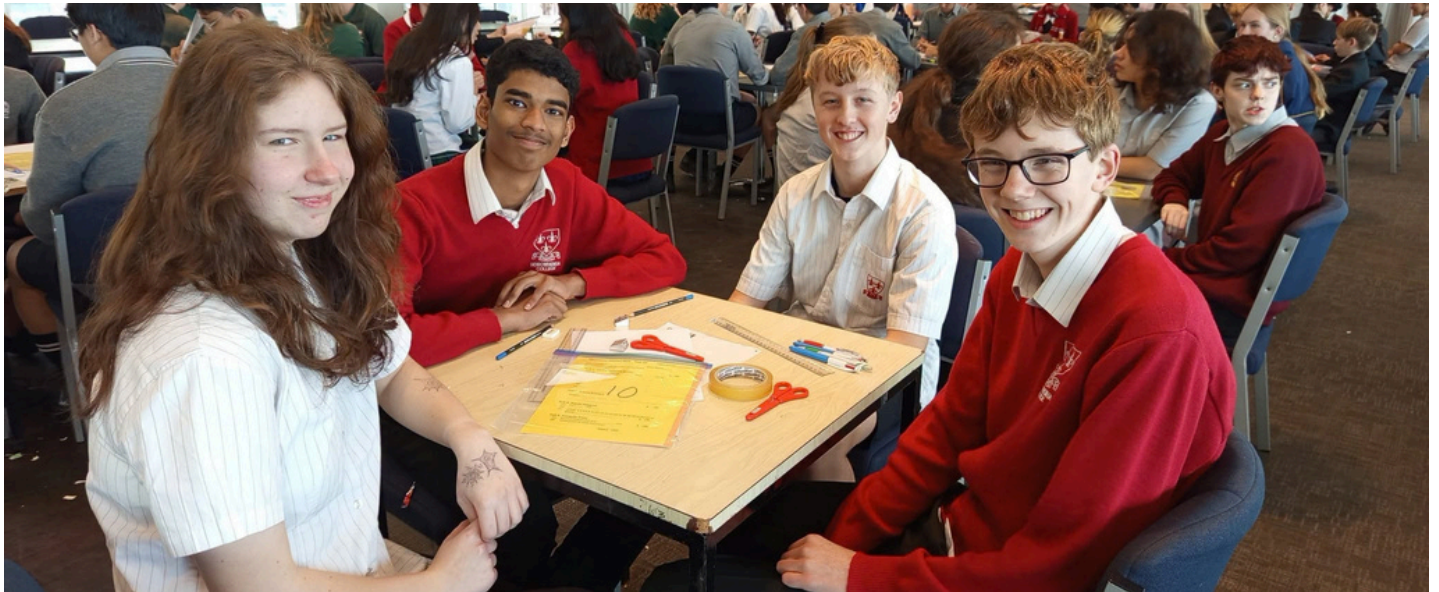






# Mathex

Three teams of our amazing mathematicians represented our kura at Mathex in Palmerston North. They represented us well and enjoyed going up against schools from across the Manawatū region. A special mention to our Year 11 team who took out third place!







# Papaparaumu Exchange

Our inaugural Sports Exchange with Paraparaumu College happened on Tuesday 28th July where 140 students, staff and coaches from Horowhenua College went down to Paraparaumu College to compete in 8 sports games.

The grounds were immaculate and the conditions were perfect for all sport! The stand out performance from Horowhenua College was our 1st XV Rugby Girls who participated in their first ever college exchange and came away 91-0 winners!

A huge thank you to all our players whose behaviour and sports conduct was exemplary all day. A massive thank you to all our staff and coaches/managers who attended the trip and our final thank you goes to Paraparaumu College and Director of Sport Frances who put on a brilliant day for us all.







# Paraparaumu Exchange







# Haka Comp 2026







# Haka Comp







## Rugby League

Samoana So'o, Nicky Luli, Scarlett Fonotī played for the U16s Valkyrie rugby league team in the Wellington Rugby League tournament. They are the Wellington U16s champs for 2026! Scarlett and Nicky also trialed for the U16s Wellington Orcas representative Rugby League team and both made the main squad.







# Jimmy Carter

A huge congratulations to our Jimmy Carter quiz team who were successful in winning the quiz for a second year running!

The Jimmy Carter Quiz is a regional inter-school quiz competition ran by the Middle District Lions which challenges students on a range of interesting questions across ten rounds.

Well done to all competing schools and congrats again to Travis, Liubava, Ashlee, Elissa and Harrison for representing Horowhenua College so well.







# Tournament Week

We had 6 teams go away across New Zealand. Which was the equivalent to 85 students. Everyone competed extremely well. Standards on and off the field, turf and court were exceptional. A highlight was our senior A netball girls coming 7<sup>th</sup> out of 38 at the lower north island tournament. It was also great to see our 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby boys experience a tournament for the first time in two decades. Huge thank you to all our coaches, managers and volunteers for not only going away with the teams for a week but for all the fundraising, logistics and helping our students getting to tournament week. Highlight of the school year for sure.







# Tournament Week







# Annuals

We had 11 games in total across 5 days. We won 8 -2 (Hockey was played Horowhenua boys vs Horowhenua Girls so didn't count for a point). Some exceptional results across the board in all sports. The support on and off the field, court and turf was greatly appreciated and highlights why this event will continue to happen. Big thanks to Waiopahu for hosting this years games. What a wonderful way for our winter codes to sign off their season. Thank you to all our coaches and managers. Thank you to all our players and best wishes to our Year 13 leaders.







# Annuals







# Annuals







## 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 4 2026 Dates

**Monday 12 October**

Term 4 Begins

**Thursday 15 October**

Prefect Leadership Training Day

**Wednesday 21 October**

Shake out Day

**Friday 6 November**

Leavers Dinner

**Tuesday 10 November**

NCEA Exams Begin

**Friday 4 December**

Senior Prizegiving

**Friday 11 December**

Junior Prizegiving & End of Term 4