

NGĀ PĀNUI | THE NEWS

Newsletter by Halswell Residential College

Term 1 2021

A word from our **Tumuaki / Principal**



What a privilege it was to have Hon Jan Tinetti visit our whānau on 9 April.

The Associate Minister of Education was once a principal at a Tauranga primary school and it was incredibly heartening when she stated that she is passionate about learning support students.

The Minister planted a kowhai tree near Te Mapua with the help of Taylor, Noah, and Rhome.

After a tour of whare Huritini, the Minister told me that she had shared

a conversation with Taylor that was particularly memorable. Taylor had spontaneously made his way over to talk to the Minister while she was enjoying a cup of tea after the mihi whakatau. He described how helpful his time at HRC had been. When the Minister questioned Taylor further, he was able to list several skills he had learnt and now uses to make his life happier and more positive.

Essentially, Taylor was able to describe the tools HRC had given him that are now part of his own toolbox. It is not

that the students come to HRC without skills, because they do have some in their toolbox already. However, they do not have the right tools for the problems they are facing. Have you ever needed to bang in a nail and not been able to find a hammer? It is pretty hard to do a good job without one, just like it is to, say, manage your anger or make a friend if you don't know how to do that.

The Minister also spoke fondly of a student who had attended her school before coming to HRC. She believes HRC was the making of his now-successful life.

I am very proud to be able to share the successful stories of two other HRC graduates in this newsletter. We wish all our graduates the very best and we love to hear their positive stories. We genuinely do want all our students to be the best version of themselves. Whakarangatirahia.

Janine Harrington

Christchurch Children's Day

Due to a change in COVID-19 Alert Levels, the annual Christchurch Children's Day tree planting day was cancelled. Instead, the Christchurch City Council donated native plants to local schools.

HRC gratefully accepted 32 native seedlings which have been planted into buckets for transplanting once they are established.

Our 2021 College Value Focus

MANAWA-ROA | BE RESILIENT

Te Whare a Owaka

It is hard to believe that Term 1 is over. What an amazing term it was for the kaiako, Laura, and Ruby, in Te Whare a Owaka. They faced challenges and overcame obstacles to be the best they can be: whakarangatirahia.

Laura and Ruby regularly showed whānaungatanga/building relationships; manawa-roa/resilience; and whaiwhakaaro/reflection.

They enjoyed a number of different activities while working towards completing their ABAS, IEP, IWS goals, and progressing towards achieving their wristbands.

It was with mixed emotions that the kaiako of Owaka said farewell to Laura and Ruby as they began the new chapter of their lives. We were sad that they were leaving HRC, but happy in the knowledge that they can utilise the skills they have learnt here back in their home, school, and community.

We wish them all the best for the future.



'I have enjoyed chilling with kaiako and other students, shopping, and saving money.

I earned money by doing paid chores.

I like going to the movies, Timezone, and ten pin bowling.' – Laura

Hapaitia te ara tika pumau
ai te rangatiratanga mo nga uri
whakatipu.

Foster the pathway of knowledge
to strength, independence, and
growth for future generations.



'It is a privilege for HRC to go to technology at Hillmorton High School and get to make cool stuff.

The best part of being at Halswell Residential College is earning my black ABAS band. This means I have completed 55+ goals.

The craziest thing that has happened to me is asking about a suitcase only to find out my mother was here to visit.

My favourite activities were ten pin bowling, pocket money spending, and earning money by doing paid chores.' – Ruby

Te Whare a Makonui

As Term 1 came to an end, it saw us say goodbye to Taylor and Noah from our whare. We wish them both the very best for the next stage of their journey, and we know they have taken great memories with them.

On the topic of memories, the students of Makonui will take over the rest of our report, so on behalf of Makonui, thanks for the term and see you soon!

‘Hi, I’m Oliver, and I’m annoyed we didn’t get to go to Woodford Glen (speedway) this term.

My favourite memory is a lot of things, most of all go karts.

I’m proud not to be damaging the house, and going to the shops by myself.’

‘My name is Cameron.

I really like spaghetti and meatballs.

Going to the movies was my favourite.’

‘Hi! I’m Taylor.

I have loved going to the shops by myself, and buying lots, and I mean lots, of junk food!’



‘I’m Chief Security Officer Noah, and my favourite thing has been doing security checks with Mihi at night. Janine, turn off your lights!

I will miss Tamsyn, and my HRC family.’

‘Hi, my name is Luka, and my favourite thing about HRC is finding bugs and hanging out with Nicole and Lee.

Going to Willowbank was my highlight, and my favourite food is dinner.’

‘Sup! I’m William.

My motorbike trip was the best, and KFC is my favourite food.’



Te Whare a Tauawa

Tiwhatiwha te po
Tiwhatiwha te ao
Ka u nga tai o rehua ki uta
Ka rongo te turea i te matahau
No tu te winiwini
No tu te wanawana
Tihei mauri ora
Mihi nui kia koutou e te whānau

Our rangatahi had a busy term and enjoyed being at kura. Highlights included outings to the movies, Laser Strike, Mega Air, fishing, tramps, go karts, and countless visits to skate parks.

But, as it always does, the end of another term rolled around

and our students and kaiako were eagerly awaiting the school holidays to arrive.

Kia ora koutou whānau.

Stay safe whānau.

‘I enjoy spending time with my friends Rhome, Ollie, and Taylor; we get to play cops on the playground.

The staff in the whare are helping me learn te reo and encouraging me to speak Māori. I enjoy taking part in karakia and getting up to do my pepeha in front of staff.

I get on well with the other boys in our whare.’ - Marcel



‘I enjoy staying in Tauawa whare. The best activity for me is going to the park and playing on the spinning wheel and going as fast as I can go. I have a competition with my friends to see who is best and fastest.

I like my teacher and staff but not when they are trying to teach me stuff I don't like. I am on my yellow band and working towards my green band.’ - Elliot



Education Outside the Classroom

Every term presents us with countless learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Here are a few highlights from Term 1.

T-ball

The HRC t-ball team was undefeated during the Canterbury Secondary Schools' T-ball Competition.

They played Waitaha School, Ferndale High School, Allenvale School, and Riccarton High School.

The students batted and fielded with skill and determination. Every player contributed to a very successful team effort.

A huge thanks to all the kaiako who supported the team.



Raumata

Teacher: Jess Grenfell
Teacher Assistant: Jane Robb

The Raumata team was so excited to welcome back Marcel and Laura. We also welcomed a familiar face, Ollie, who came to us from Kawatea.

The beginning of term was a busy one! The students worked one-on-one with an intern from the New Zealand Graduate School of Education as part of their teacher training.

In week three, we welcomed a new student, William, to HRC. He settled into HRC life well.

During the term all students completed a work experience placement of their choice, and each student had a goal to work towards. Oliver was at Musgroves, Laura and William at Sharna's Doggy Day Care, and Marcel maintained and cared for the sports equipment.

The students enjoyed the visiting students (dogs); Bailey the collie, and Frank the spoodle. They enjoyed caring for, playing with, and training them. Towards the end of term the students completed a technology project in which they had to design and create a dog toy.

Overall, Term 1 was a fantastic term. Laura, Marcel, Ollie, and William were a pleasure to teach.

Stay safe. Kia Kaha.



Te Puna Wai

Teacher: Nicole Todd

Teacher Assistants: Ruth Baker, Lee Tacon

Another fantastic term in Te Puna Wai came to an end.

During the term, we welcomed Luka to our class and he quickly joined in all the activities we had been doing.

We were busy with a topic on animals during the term. This meant great trips out on Thursday afternoons to a variety of places including visits to the educational team at the museum where we learnt about bird adaptations and all about minibeasts!

We spent time learning how to do mindfulness through movement, and getting lost in the moment dancing to GoNoodles!

All of Te Puna Wai went to RDA and our horse-handling skills improved greatly.

We are really looking forward to seeing what Term 2 has in store for us!

'I have enjoyed being able to do mindfulness, relaxing and breathing, and doing technology where I made a jewellery box and a chopping board. I loved going on outings, especially bowling, and joining in with sport.' - Ruby

'I have enjoyed spending time with kaiako and the personalities in class.' - Luka

'I have liked all the outings we have done. I've liked doing the GoNoodles with all the fun dances we do, and I loved doing mindfulness and breathing exercises.' - Cam

'I like books. I liked collecting rocks and painting them. I had great class friends. I also love my teddies and being able to bring them to school.' - Noah



Kawatea

Teacher: Sarah Hall
Teacher Assistant: Josh Geddes



Once again, Josh and I had a fantastic term with our students. We started the term with Taylor, Rhome, and Elliot, and we finished it by saying goodbye to them all. Taylor left HRC and transitioned back to Whitianga. We wish Taylor the best of luck, and hope that he keeps in touch. Rhome and Elliot are joining another class in Term 2 as Josh and I begin a new HRC journey teaching local day students. Watch this space....

We were so fortunate to have students who loved the outdoors. Christchurch has seen some fantastic weather this year, so walking and biking were part of our regular programme. We all walked to the Packhorse Hut as a day trip. The weather was perfect, and we had amazing views of Lyttelton Harbour and the Port Hills. The boys did well to carry a small backpack each, and we cooked some food in the hut before heading back down the track.

We biked at McLeans Island, Bottle Lake Forest, and part of the Rail Trail. These tracks, which we've done before, showcase great places for all ages and abilities to bike within a short drive from school. We felt particularly proud of Taylor who finished the term by riding a trail from the top of the Christchurch Adventure Park with Josh. Taylor's biking

skills have really improved, and he is able to manage himself well in the outdoors.

During the term, we went to Uprising Bouldering for some indoor climbing. It was good fun, and the boys were challenged as they attempted different levels of climbs. Accessing these sorts of places teaches our students how to conduct themselves in public, give new things a go, overcome anxiety, and learn new skills. Rhome, Elliot, and Taylor gave all our activities a go, which will hold them in great stead as they move through their time at HRC and beyond.

Alongside the physical and outdoor programme, we continued to make progress in our literacy and numeracy learning. The students worked on their IEP goals, and participated in other topics within the classroom and wider school.

Earlier in the term, we had swan plants in our class and watched as several caterpillars grew. We managed to see a few morph into monarch butterflies. Everyone was interested in the process and took care of the insects until they could fly away to begin the cycle again.

We're looking forward to seeing the students back next term. For Taylor, and the other students leaving HRC, we wish you and your whānau well.

New Zealand Graduate School of Education

We were fortunate to have the intern teachers from the New Zealand Graduate School of Education (NZGSE) return on-site for two weeks at the beginning of term.

The one-on-one interactions between the interns and our students are highly valued by both groups.

The highlight of this programme is always 'game day' when the teachers-in-training verse the students in a game of t-ball on the last day.

The NZGSE students gracefully accepted defeat.



The Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events (DLE)

*Every interaction by
every kaiako with
every child*
has the potential to make a
positive difference.

During our professional development week, all kaiako completed a two-day course on 'The Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events (DLE)' run by Dr Leon Fulcher prior to the students returning for Term 1.

This values-based and trauma-informed programme will assist our kaiako to be more intentional in making daily life events into meaningful moments that will support our students as they develop the values of relationships, resilience, reflection, and whakarangatirahia - being the best they can be.

This was a very successful course, and is a key part of our journey in the development of our therapeutic milieu.

As part of implementing DLE into daily life at HRC, a group of kaiako will be receiving ongoing training and supervision so they can assist other kaiako in implementing DLE into their daily practice.

In Term 1, the ENGAGE team initiated a new self-management programme while interacting with the students.

The rules of the games, which included consequences for negative behaviours/dialogue, were agreed by all prior to the game starting. At first, the students struggled with the new agreement and needed continuous prompting, but as sessions went on kaiako noticed a substantial decrease in the students' anxieties, negative interactions, and the need for reminders to stay calm.

In Term 2, kaiako will be working alongside new

students, and one student, who has been through the ENGAGE programme, will have the chance to mentor a student starting the programme.

By taking this new approach, kaiako hope the student leading the games will feel empowered, gain a stronger sense of worth, build on coping skills, and learn how to be more tolerant of others. The new student introduced to the programme will hopefully start to formulate a friendship with the mentor and learn how to self-manage during times of difficulty.

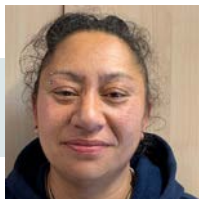
ENGAGE Programme



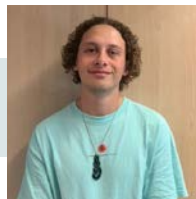
Haere mai to our new kaiako



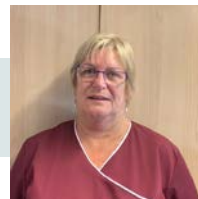
Jasmine Taylor-Harris
Residential Assistant



Findy Whare
IEP Coordinator



Kahu Christensen
Youth Worker



Charmaine Thomson
Residential Assistant

Where are they now?

Hearing success stories from former students brings koa/joy to our kaiako.



As a former student of HRC, it's always been a wonder how the place operates now. I've been back to Christchurch a few times since I left, but never made the call to pop in for a look.

Earlier in March I was down in Christchurch

for a work trip, and figured it would be a good idea to pop along to HRC for a visit. How things have changed!

I left in 2016, right as the old houses, then known as villas, were lined up for demolition. A large contingent of staff were gearing up to leave, and the day school was seeing a few changes too.

I was asked by Janine to write this piece to give a bit of background to what I'm doing now. I'm not sure I'm the best example, nor am I sure what exactly I can offer, but I'll give it a crack.

After I left Halswell in 2016, I moved back into mainstream education, and took what I learnt at HRC and applied it to my life. I put my head down and focused on my dreams.

I stuck at school until 2019, where I graduated Year 13, finally putting an end to the rollercoaster that was school. I then made the questionable call to head to university to study politics and journalism on

a scholarship. I didn't thrive at university as much as I thought I would, and I was a drop out within six months, but that was okay.

In September last year, I got a job with the NZ Herald covering the central North Island - a dream I've had since my HRC days where I first found my passion for writing.

At HRC, I never in a million years expected to be where I am now. I still don't quite grasp it. But it was achieved because of the skills I learnt that put me on the right track. HRC taught me the skills I needed to succeed at life. Without those skills and experiences drilled into me, I don't think I'd be where I am today.

While I may be on the straight and narrow now, I remember vividly what I grappled with when I was there. Emotion, social anxiety, fear, anger. There was likely also an aspect of me being a general misbehaving little something-rather. I was in a real tough spot in my life.

On my trip in March, I was reminded of the mission statement plastered all over the school. **Whakarangatirahia - be the best you can be.** I don't think I ever once paid notice to it when I was there, but now I realise it played more of a role than I once thought. It's a good ethos to live by.

It was great to pop back in, and good luck to those of you on that very journey I found myself on only a few short years ago. I'm sure you'll nail it! - Ethan Griffiths



We were also thrilled to have Christian Murphy pop by for a visit this term.

Christian left us in 2015 and has since gone on to gain full-time employment at WasteCo Christchurch, and earn his restricted licence. Both of which are awesome achievements.

Christian's most recent achievement was completing the Christchurch ANZ Marathon. This was his first marathon and he ran the 42km course in an impressive time of 5:44.53 (with no training!). Long term, Christian has his sights set on the Rotorua Marathon.

We asked Christian if he had anything else he wanted us to share with the HRC whānau. His response was, 'I'm still a ginger!'

We warmly wish Christian and Ethan all the best as they keep navigating their way through. Keep in touch, and keep moving forward.

Dates for the diary

Board of Trustees meeting:	Friday 21 May, Video Conference
Student Council meeting:	Thursday 27 May
Board of Trustees meeting:	Friday 2 July, Westbridge Residential School
End of Term 2 travel out day:	Friday 9 July
Term 3 travel in day:	Tuesday 27 July

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