NGĀ PĀNUI THE NEWS

Halswell Residential College HRC Te Otu Mātua **Newsletter Two**

RUA
2025

CELEBRATING MATARIKI

Manawatia a Matariki

At HRC Te Otu Mātua, we celebrated Matariki with a special lunchtime hāngī, bringing together ākonga, kaimahi, and whānau to honour the Māori New Year.

The event is eagerly anticipated each year amongst our whānau to reflect, remember, and reconnect—acknowledging those who have passed and looking ahead with hope and intention.

The hāngī, prepared with care and aroha, was shared with gratitude, strengthening our sense of kotahitanga. Over kai and kōrero, we embraced the spirit of Matariki through manaakitanga and connection. It was a meaningful celebration grounded in tikanga Māori and the values that guide us.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible and successful, from the planning, to the preparing, and executing of the activities and hāngī.

Kia koutou katoa.

Mā te Matariki e arataki.

This year we decided to concentrate on three of the stars that form Matariki.

Tupuānuku: the star for food grown in the ground, e.g. kūmara, riwai.

Tupuārangi: the star for food grown above the ground e.g. fruits, berries, birds.

Hiwa-i-te-rangi: the star that holds hopes and dreams.

Nga tamariki and kaiako planted herb seedlings into little pots to watch them grow, and then put them into the garden or bigger pots when they are ready. Artwork of the stars was completed and displayed around the walls of Te Mapua.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR INCOMING **TUMUAKI**

Whāia te iti kahurangi,
ki te tuohu koe,
me he maunga teitei.

Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

As my plane took off from Napier in the early hours, the sun was bright red, and the horizon was a stunning glow of colour and promise. This image became my continued experience throughout the days connecting with the HRC whenua and with the tangata. Throughout my visit to HRC, I received manaakitanga, enthusiasm, and felt that a genuine sense of mahi tahi was one of the many strengths within the teams.

Firstly, a big thanks to everyone who was part of the mihi whakatau. My highlights were the two tamariki who shared their pepeha, and the HRC waiata that the team sang so well.

On Sunday, I enjoyed being part of a birthday celebration with several of the boys, whānau, and members of the HRC team. Thank you again for including me in the celebrations; the pancakes and bacon were miharo! I'm just a bit gutted to lose at the egg and spoon race, but it made Freedom's day to get the win, so all good.

The overall feedback from the people I spoke to was the pride, authenticity, and positive team work people experience together. I was really impressed at the dedication, awareness and aroha I could see living across the campus.

I look forward to joining your waka fully at the end of September. I'm proud to be part of the team and will give my very best to support you and the tamariki to be the very best you can be.

Stephen Evans
Incoming Tumuaki (Term 4, 2025)

HAERE RĀ **MASON**

Ngā mihi nui for being a wonderful part of Makonui and the wider HRC Te Otu Mātua whānau. You will be missed!

KUPU FROM OUR COMMISSIONER

Kia ora koutou

Firstly, I would like to thank Jon and all of the Halswell Residential College staff for their continued commitment, enthusiasm, and effort. Across the teaching and residential sides of the school every staff member has been working hard to support every learner and ensure that our school is a positive, safe, welcoming learning environment where all ākonga are supported to succeed.

Looking ahead at what the rest of the 2025 school year will involve, we are looking forward to formally welcoming Stephen Evans to Halswell Residential College in Term 4. Stephen will be stepping into the principal role and will work closely alongside Jon and school staff to lead Halswell Residential College across the remainder of 2025, into 2026 and beyond. I am excited for Stephen to be joining our school and am confident that he will quickly become an invaluable member of our school community.

As Commissioner, I will continue to oversee the governance of Halswell Residential College, supporting the school to deliver high quality teaching and residential care for all ākonga. Our staff are integral to this vision for residential education and I believe that over the remainder of 2025 and beyond staff capability and the quality of teaching and care delivered at the school will only continue to grow.

If you have any questions about anything included in this update or would like to discuss any matters relating to the governance of HRC, please reach out. I am available via email at: gabrielle@dandgconsulting.co.nz

Noho ora mai rā.

Gabrielle Wall
Commissioner

"My time at HRC was a life-changer for me."

A former HRC graduate recently paid us a visit while he was in Christchurch.

He proudly reported that he has his own car and he will soon be sitting his full driver's licence test, and he is also starting a new job!

Whakarangatirahia!

Be the best you can be!

KUPU FROM OUR ACTING TUMUAKI

It is amazing how quickly the year is going. We are already in August with ākonga enjoying skiing and snowboarding at Porters over the next few weeks.

It has been a pleasure for the team to welcome several new ākonga and their whānau into the HRC whānau as we work together to help them achieve their goals and aspirations. It is always a sad time as we share their achievements when we farewell ākonga at the conclusion of their enrolment at HRC; however, we always look forward to hearing from them how their learning journey is progressing.

It was great to have Stephen Evans visit us recently to meet some of the team, and we are all looking forward to him moving back to Christchurch and leading our HRC whānau.

Our value for 2025 is **Whaiwhakaaro Reflect Together.** As I write this, I have spent some time reflecting on how the year has gone, what has worked well, and what can be done better. I know there are several things I could have done better, and this is also a common theme I often hear from former ākonga who express that they wished they had tried harder when they were here.

I am very proud of the relational approach we use here at HRC and how we utilise the Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events (DLE) to make a meaningful difference for our ākonga. We can tell someone to try harder, but if we wish for this to actually happen we need to work alongside them to help them learn and develop by *doing things with them, not doing things for or to them*. If you would like further information on DLE please contact us.

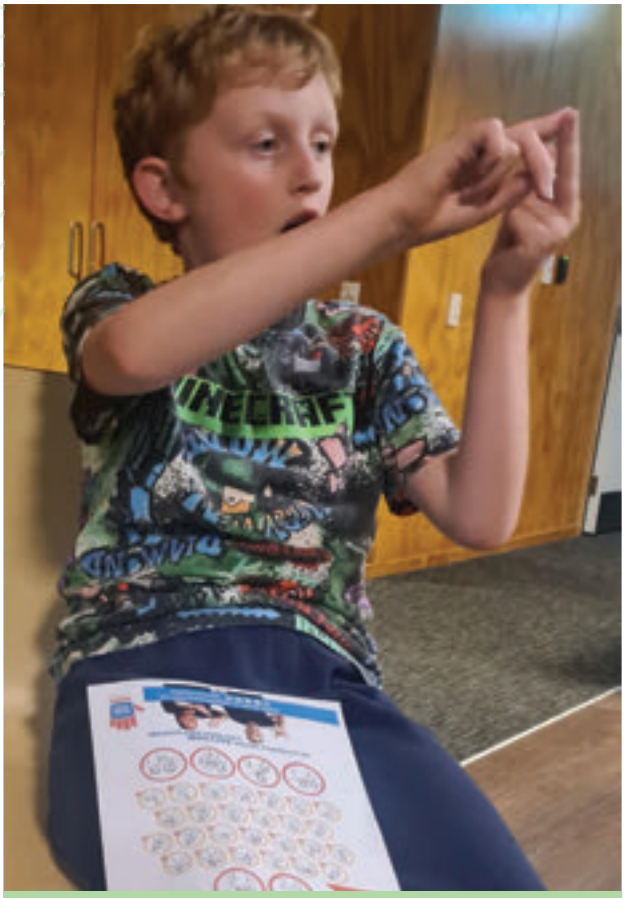
Jon Purdue
Acting Tumuaki

HRC's 2025 Value is **Whaiwhakaaro | Reflect Together**

TE WHARE A **HURITINI**

He whānau tātou.

We are family.



The ākonga of Huritini have made remarkable progress in the recent months and continue to exceed expectations. A key focus has been on integrating everyday life experiences into learning, helping ākonga develop practical skills and a deeper understanding through real-world contexts. A broken dishwasher provided this valuable learning opportunity for ākonga, who took turns to wash and dry dishes by hand, building cooperation, responsibility, and practical life skills in the process.

Our weekly social learning sessions continue to be a valuable platform for growth. Ākonga have demonstrated strong friendship and relationship skills as they supported our new ākonga to settle into life at HRC. Ākonga have been able to identify challenges, ask how to help, propose solutions, and follow through with the necessary steps to resolve them. They have also been looking for opportunities to offer support and show empathy and initiative.

As part of transitioning towards greater independence, one ākonga has identified catching public transport as a key life skill to focus on. As a team, we are actively planning how to support this ākonga to reach this goal. Another ākonga has been making great strides in self-management by knowing when he is escalating, leaving the room, and returning when he feels settled. Our newest ākonga displayed impressive manawa-roa/resilience as he settled in to Huritini with minimal support and a strong willingness to engage and adapt to new expectations.

We were recently reminded of how special our mahi is, and we are truly grateful for the trust whānau place in us to support and care for their tamariki. It was a privilege to be part of a 16th birthday celebration, shared with whānau and kaiako in Huritini. The day was full of laughter, games, and joy.

Congratulations to our ākonga on your remarkable growth and resilience as you continue to progress on your learning journey. We look forward with anticipation to the many successes still to come.

Mā te wā!

TE WHARE A **TAUAWA**

Kupu from ākonga

"Kia ora!

At HRC I am learning to work on my emotions. When I don't get what I want, I know I can talk to kaiako. I am learning to take time to reflect and process when I need to, be kind to others, be understanding, and know that I don't need to stand up for everyone and fight their battles, especially if it has nothing to do with me.

At school, I am learning the alphabet, phonics, and other things. I can read words with five letters in them now; I am so proud of myself.

I enjoy playing sports and running around. I like playing on the scooter and kicking the ball. I love going on outings to skate parks and the golf driving range; I find it hard to sit still.

I am happy and cheeky, and I like playing jokes on others.

This term, I joined a local rugby team. We practice on Thursdays and play on Saturday mornings. I am learning to pass the ball to others, share, be encouraging, and play as a teammate, and also, if the coach or someone else is helping another player, it is not cheating; they just need extra help, and I don't need to get angry.

My whānau have said at my AAM (All About Me) meetings that they have noticed that I am a lot more loving when I talk to my younger brother and sister, and they are happy with the progress that I have made so far; they can see and hear my progress."

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu.

Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar.

The above is a powerful metaphor about personal development. It suggests that by acquiring new skills, knowledge, and experience, individuals can elevate themselves and achieve greater things. It encourages continuous learning and the accumulation of strengths to facilitate personal growth.

From the team of Tauawa, we are proud of the progress our ākonga have made, and we look forward to supporting growth during the rest of the year.

AKOMANGA / CLASSROOM

RAUMATA

Teacher: **Nicole Todd**
Teacher Assistant: **Lee Tacon**

Manawa-Roa | Be Resilient

"I have had to cope with not being able to go to sport."

Whanaungatanga | Relationships

"I have been following kindness goals which have helped me be kind to others."

Whaiwhakaaro | Reflect

"I have got really good at doing my BSLA (Better Start Literacy Approach)."

Kupu from ākonga

"I have been listening to books and talking about what is happening in the story. I've also been doing BSLA every day, and it has made me better at reading.

I've been doing Numicon in maths and learning what all the counting shapes are.

I have enjoyed going horse riding. I have learned how to lead the horse and ride it. I like playing the games they have at RDA.

I am grateful to be in Raumata, and I am proud of how good I am at fitness and how I have been able to start reading books."

AKOMANGA / CLASSROOM

TE PUNA WAI

Teacher: **Adam Gardiner**
Teacher Assistant: **Sammie Anderson**

In Te Puna Wai, we've been focusing on two important values: kindness and sharing. Our ākonga have been doing a great job displaying these values in the classroom by helping each other, taking turns, and using kind words. It's been awesome to see the connections grow stronger as they learn and play together and with others.

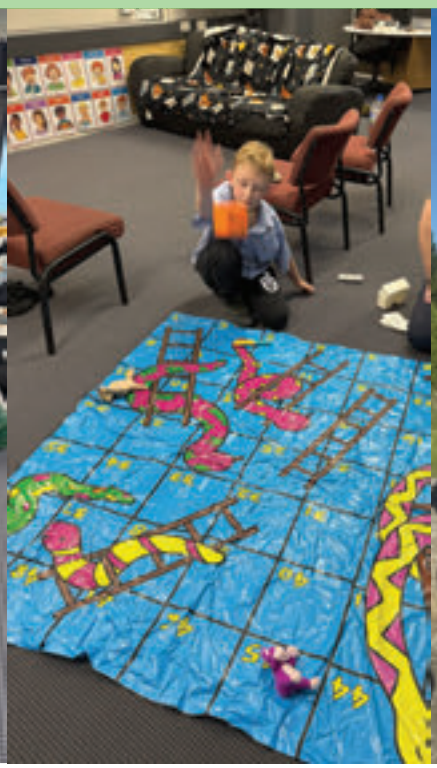
We've been busy taking part in all the exciting activities the school has to offer. In volleyball, we've been practising teamwork and having fun learning new skills. We also love our time at RDA (Riding for the Disabled), where the boys are building confidence by riding and caring for the horses. In woodwork, we've been working hard on making our very own side tables. Measuring, sawing, and sanding–it's hands-on learning at its best! In maths, our ākonga have been working through the Numicon programmes. They've been exploring number patterns, place value, and problem-solving using colourful shapes and real-world examples.

We're proud of the progress made in Te Puna Wai across all areas. It's been a fantastic term so far, full of learning, laughter, and a whole lot of kindness.

Ka pai. Keep it up!

E iti noa ana, nā te aroha.

Although it is small, it is given with love.



AKOMANGA / CLASSROOM

KAWATEA

Teacher: **Sarah Hall**
Teacher Assistant: **Nikki O'Hanlon**

He aroha whakatō, he aroha ka puta mai.

If kindness is sown, then kindness is what you shall receive.

What a term! Despite our smaller class sizes this year, it has provided an opportunity for us to work more in-depth with our ākonga, and there has certainly been a lot of learning going on!

In Kawatea, we have been working on structured literacy. We've also learned a lot of new number skills in maths, including column multiplication and short division. One ākonga is really in his power zone during maths time, and he loves the challenge of numbers. The number he is particularly interested in checking is his height, and we reckon he has grown over 1cm in a term!

We recently started a topic on Antarctica. We have been discovering the animal life in Antarctica and some of the great explorers who took to the icy continent and led the way to discover this unique environment. To finish off this topic, we will take a trip to the Antarctic Centre.

The whole kura has been focusing on kindness: what it looks like, sounds like, and how to show it to others. This is such a great skill for us all to practice, as we can use kindness in all aspects of our lives.

We haven't managed many bike rides recently due to the wet weather, but fortunately RDA is under cover. This is a fantastic opportunity to watch our ākonga flourish in an environment where they can show amazing skills and care towards animals.

Towards the end of Term 2, we temporarily farewelled Nikki, our fabulous teacher assistant, who took some time to be with her family in the UK and returned to us in time to welcome our newest ākonga to Kawatea.

AKOMANGA / CLASSROOM

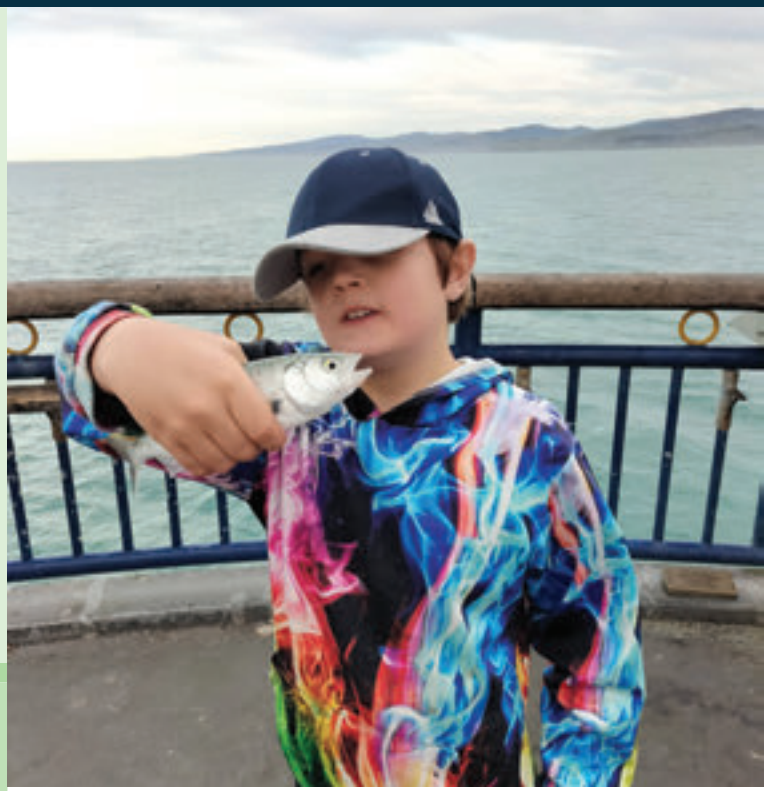
KAHAROA

Teacher: **Andy Dickison**
Teacher Assistant: **Ruth Baker**

Whaiwhakaaro/Reflect

We look back now and whaiwhakaaro on a rewarding and successful few months in the Kaharoa classroom. With smaller class numbers this term, we had the opportunity to really focus on personal development—a journey that has made a big difference in our learning environment.

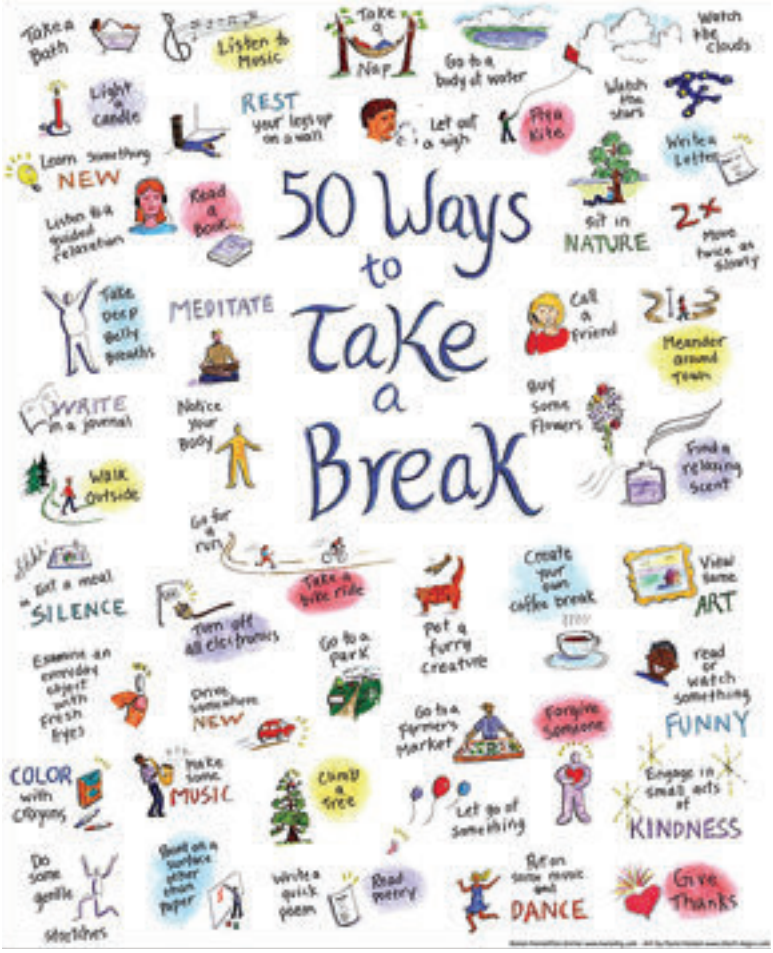
Emotional Learning & Wellbeing: A major focus this term has been recognising our emotions, identifying personal triggers, and practising calming techniques. This work has helped create a more settled, positive, and regulated classroom where ākonga feel safe and supported. We're proud of our emotional programme and how far we have come in building emotional awareness and resilience.



Whanaungatanga/Relationships

Sport: Our weekly sports sessions have been a real highlight! Every Wednesday has brought energy and fun as we practised teamwork, tried new games, and enjoyed getting active together.

Memorable Trips: We ventured out on some beautiful day trips this term, including visits to Governors Bay and New Brighton Pier. Fishing at the pier was a hit, offering both peaceful moments and the thrill of a good catch!



Poster by Karen Forneffer-Grinter

Manawa-Roa/Resilience

Work Experience: Our work experience programme continues to shine. A standout this term was a placement at Sharna's Doggy Daycare, where ākonga worked with dogs under supervision and flourished in this role, showing real dedication and excitement—Tuesday mornings quickly became a favourite time of the week for Kaharoa.

Numicon: We have introduced the Numicon maths programme into our classroom, and it's been a fun and engaging way to explore number concepts. Our ākonga and kaiako have been building confidence with this new hands-on resource.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HRC played in the Special Olympics Football Certificate Day.

The day started with an official opening where the Special Olympics oath was read out and ended with a closing presentation.

The focus for our team was words of encouragement, and the catchphrases that could be heard throughout the day included "together, we can do this," "one team, one dream," "stay united, stay determined," "together everyone achieves more," and "we rise by lifting each other."

There were 17 teams entered into the competition, and the HRC team played four amazing games and made HRC and themselves proud.

"Football, like life, is filled with ups and downs, and the most important thing is to keep moving forward and never give up." *- Diego Maradona*

KINDNESS WEEK

During Term 2, ākonga were given a 'kindness task' to practise during the day. Each time ākonga were observed practising their kindness task, they were awarded a behaviour voucher.

At the close of our practising kindness week, we celebrated Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is a nationwide initiative with a focus on eliminating bullying, celebrating diversity, and promoting kindness and inclusion.

Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora!

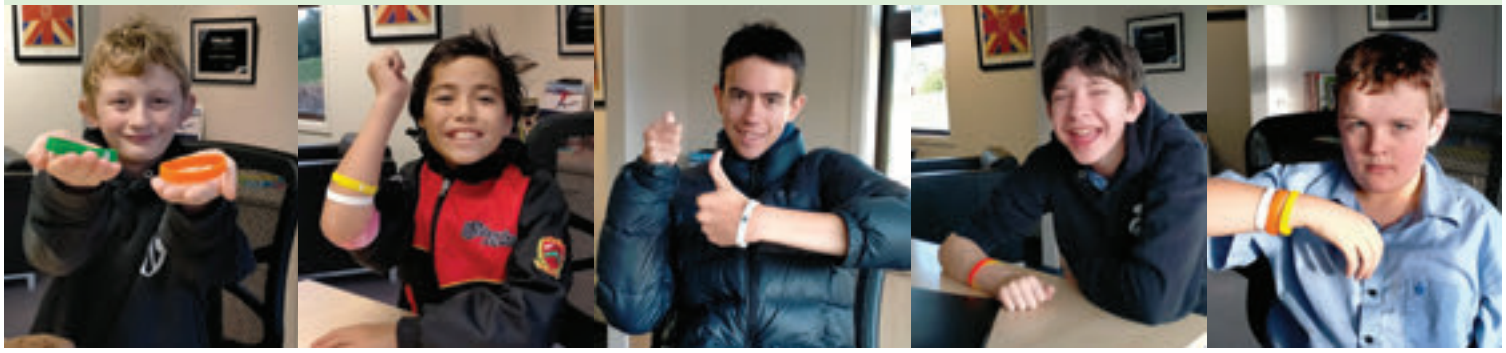
Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

Ākonga practising kindness by giving his friend a note telling him "You're a great friend".

ROAD RACE

MAY 2025

GOAL ACHIEVEMENT **WRISTBANDS**



NUMICON

Numicon resources are flat plastic shapes with holes in them. Each shape represents a number from one to 10, and each number has its own colour.

Numicon is a multi-sensory way of learning that helps rangitahi to see connections between numbers.

DATES FOR THE **DIARY**

Term 3 Final Assembly
Thursday 18 September

Travel Days
Friday 19 September (Term 3, out)
Monday 6 October (Term 4, in)

Mihi Whakatau for Tumuaki
Tuesday 7 October, 10 am

RSS-only Enrolments at HRC

Who makes the application?

Applications can only be made by the young person's learning support provider in their home region. This could be a Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), a Ministry specialist, or a day specialist or fund-holder school.

Please contact our student coordinator if you have any questions about the enrolment process, or if you would like to arrange a time to visit.

Anna McCoy, Student Coordinator

03 339 7802 | annamccoy@halswellcollege.com

www.halswellcollege.com