



NUA NEWS

Kia ora koutou, Talofa Lava, Greetings everyone

Term 3 is always a busy term - learning programmes to progress and assessments to sit, a visit from Namiki High School from Japan, House haka competition, parent conferences, shave for a cure, language weeks, open evening, gumboot Friday, winter sports competitions, teachers only day, Literacy and Numeracy tests, winter tournament week, Daffodil Day, annuals vs Waiopahu Derived grade exams and these are only a few of what this term has included.

Well done to students and staff for what has been achieved this term. And we finish the term with Maori Language week.

Nga mihi nui kia a koutou katoa ; tautoko i a matou tauira i tenei wahanga

Nga mihi, Tofa Soifua, Kind regards

Grant Congdon
Principal/Tuamaki





Word from the Board

Tēnā koutou katoa

As we reach the end of what has been a full term, it's heartening to reflect on the many ways our students have embraced the opportunities available to them. Across our four key pillars, academic achievement, sport, arts and culture, and service, our ākonga have shown enthusiasm, commitment, and pride. From Tournament Week to Annuals, and through a wide range of cultural, social, and service events, it has been wonderful to see our students doing their best and demonstrating the NUA way in their activities within and outside school. This edition of Nua News highlights just some of the many activities and accomplishments from the term. It's a wonderful reminder of the diverse and dynamic life of our school.

Behind the scenes, it's also been a productive term for the Board. As you will be aware we have been required to implement an enrolment scheme by the Ministry of Education, so submission on this, and preparation for it have taken much of this term. We are very aware of the potential effect of this on whānau and students in our community, and are keen to manage the transition to the enrolment zone as best we can. This term we have also focused on revising our health and safety procedures and finance policies. We continue to monitor student progress closely and remain committed to investing in professional development so our staff are well-equipped to support and extend every learner.

Thank you to all those parents, students and staff who voted in our board elections in September. These have brought significant change to our governance team, with several long-serving members stepping down. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Garry Good (Deputy Chair), Bob Slade, Alasdair Maclean, and Chris Fearon (staff representative) for their invaluable contributions over the years. Their dedication and thoughtful leadership have helped shape the direction of our kura, and we are deeply grateful for their service. We also farewell Liam Roach, our 2024–2025 Student Representative, who has done a fantastic job in his role. It's a pleasure to welcome Harrison McQuillan as our new Student Representative, and Hanchen Johnson as staff representative and we look forward to working with them. Megan Bolton (Deputy Chair), Manuila Tausi and myself continue on the board. Joining us as new parent-elected representatives for the 2025–2028 term are Lisa Byrnes and Alex McMinn. We're excited to have all our new members on the team and are already appreciating the fresh perspectives and expertise they bring. Our board is completed by our wonderful Principal/Tumuaki, Grant Congdon, and we could not function as we do without our amazing Board Secretary, Kate Searle.

I also want to take a moment to sincerely thank all those who contribute to the life of our kura. To our dedicated staff—thank you for your tireless work this term, both in the classroom and through the many extra-curricular activities you lead and support. And to our wider school whānau, including iwi partners, volunteers, and of course our students, thank you for all you do to help our ākonga flourish.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Nua News.

Ngā mihi nui
Juliana Mansvelt



Golf

Congratulations to William Dunsmore, James Dunsmore, and Bostyn O'Brien, who won the Manawatu-Whanganui Secondary School Golf Champs at Foxton Golf Club.

The best 2 scores of 3 count towards the final score with William shooting a 71 and James shooting a 80 they posted a final team score of 151, 6 shots ahead of 2nd place Feilding High School and 14 shots ahead of 3rd place Palmerston North Boys High School.

William also took out the individual gross score with his 71, 1 under par and the boys have qualified for the national tournament in Wellington.

Well done boys, we are all very proud of you!





Cycling

Minnie Collins has had a North Island and National Schools Track Championships to remember where she podiumed twice against the best NZ has to offer!

Minnie's results were;
3rd U20 North Island Schools Track Championships
3rd U20 National Schools Track Championships

A huge congratulations to Minnie, who has represented Horowhenua College with some wonderful results!





School Ball

Our senior ball, held during the school holidays, was a fantastic event and was thoroughly enjoyed by those students who attended. Thank you to our social prefects, Mrs McCormick and everyone else involved in making this event happen.

A full album of photos can be found on our college Facebook page.





School Ball





DanceNZmade

Well done to our students who competed at the recent DanceNZmade inter-school comps!

Ayla-May Paparoa competed in the Year 10 solo section with her hip hop piece and placed 1st. She was named Year 10 solo champion. She also received a “She Shines On” nomination to compete again in September to see if she can win a trip to L.A.

Also competing were Ivy-Rose Henare-Pearson and Eloise Collis in the Duo/Trio Open Section. They placed as 1st runner up.



Flight

Eloise Branagh, one of our Year 12 students recently completed her first solo flight from the Feilding Aerodrome. To complete a solo flight you are required to be 16 years of age and Eloise completed her flight on her 16th birthday.

Eloise has been having flying lessons since June of 2024 with the Feilding Aviation Flight School and hopes to be accepted into the Massey University School of Aviation in 2027 after she completes Year 13. Eloise loves to travel and her goal is to train to become a commercial pilot initially with Air New Zealand.





PE

Our Year 13 PE students have recently been analysing and experiencing a variety of physical activities in our community. We had one day trip out to Palmerston North and a local day in Levin. The purpose of these experiences was for the students to think about physical activity as more than sport, and to possibly inspire involvement in new physical activities once they leave school.





Swimming

On Sunday August 10, Eloise Branagh, Taylor Hing, and Alex Branagh competed in the Capital Coast Pool Rescue competition at Coastlands Aquatic Centre. Eloise got a 1st, 2 x 2nd, and 2 x 3rd in U17 female. Taylor got a 1st, 2 x 2nd, and 2 x 3rd in U17 female. Taylor and Eloise won their line throw being the only female team in the competition to successfully complete it. Alex got 1 x 2nd and 2 x 3rd in U14 boys.



Bledisloe Cup





Hockey

Our 1st XI Girls Hockey competed in the Intercity 2 Final and were the heavy favourites going into the game having remained unbeaten all year, as well as looking to claim back to back Intercity 2 Titles.

The girls handled the pressure extremely well and despite an early onslaught from PNGHS, they held firm and slowly found their groove before taking a deserved 1-0 lead. The game went back and forth and despite another goal for Nua, PNGHS pegged us back and heading into the last quarter we held a slender 2-1 lead.

As PNGHS pushed for an equaliser, yet again our girls' composure shone through as they absorbed the pressure before making it 3-1 with 5 minutes to go to settle the nerves in the dugout. With only 60 seconds left on the clock, Year 12 German exchange student Lisanne settled the tie and made it 4-1 to give our girls the win and claim back-to-back Intercity 2 Division Titles.

Big thank you to Coach Makayla and Manager Venessa for all your hard work this season and well done to the entire squad on claiming the title and remaining undefeated all year!





Advanced Leadership

The Advanced Leaders Course, for Services Academy students was a very fun and exciting course. It allowed both Amber Wright and I to grow as young leaders and created a safe space for us to explore who we are. The course consisted of leaderless tasks, ice breaker games and squad handling for our marching assessment. It allowed us to make bonds that won't be broken and allowed me personally to flourish in a military environment. Overall the Advanced Leadership Course was amazing and I loved every second of it.

Alexus Upjohn





Drama

The Senior Drama classes headed down to Wellington for a day of theatre and fun. We started our journey at Toi Whakaari; the New Zealand Drama School, where we had a tour and then an acting class run by some third-year students. Here, students learned about the importance of focus and energy. From here, we went to Weta Workshops where we explored the world of production, set, props and graphics design. The students loved the interactivity of this area, and we learned all about how New Zealand made its way onto the world stage.

Next up, we headed to Te Papa where we participated in a protest talk about the activist activities at Te Papa over the years, but mainly about the spray painting of the Treaty. This was eye-opening and aligned beautifully with the show we saw that evening, “Ration the Queens Veges” at Circa Theatre. This show was thought-provoking, interesting and creatively written to showcase the key messages of not only the protest but the current climate we are experiencing. <https://www.circa.co.nz/package/ration-the-queens-veges/>





Puhoro STEMM Academy

A group of our Puhoro Academy students attended a wānanga in Ōtaki alongside rangatahi from across the region.

Through pūrākau-based STEMM challenges, our students explored a range of workshops including toi whakairo, Minecraft coding, solar-powered cars, climate change activities, waiata, and a powerful session on what it means to be Māori.

A huge mihi to Puhoro and Te Wānanga o Raukawa for hosting such an inspiring day that encouraged our students to connect with both their identity and the exciting opportunities within STEMM.





Makers Market

The Level 2 Commerce class are working hard towards their 'Business Activity' assessment which earns them 9 credits for working on their own businesses for a sustained amount of time. After the success of the Market Day in the Quad earlier this term, students who have been making handmade crafted goods have the opportunity to host the Makers' Market to sell their goods to a refined target market in a more intimate setting.





Climate Clarity Youth Forum

Students Liam Roach and Ashlee West recently attended The Climate Clarity Youth Forum in Palmerston North. Like-minded students from secondary schools around the region heard notable community advocates and educators speak, sharing their knowledge and insights. It was both an interesting and encouraging experience for all involved.



Spelling Bee

Alistair Brownie and Noah Erasmus travelled down to Wellington to compete in the New Zealand Spelling Bee semi-finals.

This is an annual competition for year 9 and 10 students. Being in the semi-finals means that Alistair and Noah are in the top 400 year 9 and 10 spellers in the country!

They were required to spell words such as profligacy, vociferous and euphemism. Both boys did an excellent job at the spelling bee, despite neither of them making it to the finals. Well done Alistair and Noah!





Mathex

On August 8th, 16 of our Year 9 and 10 students represented our school at the regional Mathex competition. They competed against schools from across the region, tackling challenging maths problems under pressure. Our students showed great teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving skills.





Massey University

A group of Year 12 and 13 students got to check out the offerings of Massey University Palmerston North campus on Wednesday 6th August.

The trip allowed students to explore opportunities for their future and see what the campus had to offer such as courses, facilities and accommodation.





Shave for a Cure

On the 15th of August, our school hosted a Shave for a Cure day, where students were encouraged to get involved and take part in a crazy hair day. During first break, we held a lemonade stand, bake sale, and chocolate coin toss to raise extra money for the cause. At second break, students had the opportunity to shave or cut their hair. Some had signed up beforehand and raised funds in advance, while others jumped in on the spot to take part.

Even our principal, Mr. Congdon, joined in by shaving his head for the cause. Overall, it was a hugely successful day full of fun, where we were proud to raise money to support cancer research and care.

Fern Forth and Olivia Murray-Kirby
Social Action Prefects





Dance

What a way to finish the dance competition calendar with 30 of our students competing at National level for Dance NZ Made; a huge achievement and our biggest group yet. With both our junior crews and two of our senior crews competing against some of the best secondary school dancers in New Zealand, we took the stage with pride, energy and passion. We didn't receive any results but we all did substantially better than our regional performances and Whaea Caitlin and Whaea Willow are super proud of our efforts.

We also had two students selected to compete with their solo pieces, Ayla-May and Abi Sage who competed with heart and soul. Ayla-May came away with a 3rd place in her Y10 solo section which is a huge achievement. Well done Ayla.

Abi had the opportunity to workshop with Footnote dance company on the Friday night as well as perform with a group of students from around New Zealand to open the Friday night special show for Footnote. This is a company Abi aspires to study with in the next few years so to have an experience like this is outstanding. Well done Abi.





Whanaungatanga Day

On Wednesday we proudly hosted the annual Whanaungatanga Day with our local colleges – Manawatū and Waiopēhu, with Ōtaki College joining us for the first time.

This celebration, now in its 9th year, is held during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori and sees each college take turns hosting a different traditional tākaru Māori. This year, we played Āriki – a game of control and skill where players use padded rākau to strike their opponents' waewae and eliminate them from the round. Once the chosen Āriki is eliminated, the round ends and the winning team is revealed.

A huge mihi to our rangatahi who performed the karanga and whaikōrero to welcome our manuhiri, to those that played for the first time and for the manaakitanga shown throughout the day. “Rangatahi tū, Rangatahi ora. Rangatahi noho, Rangatahi mate.





Exams

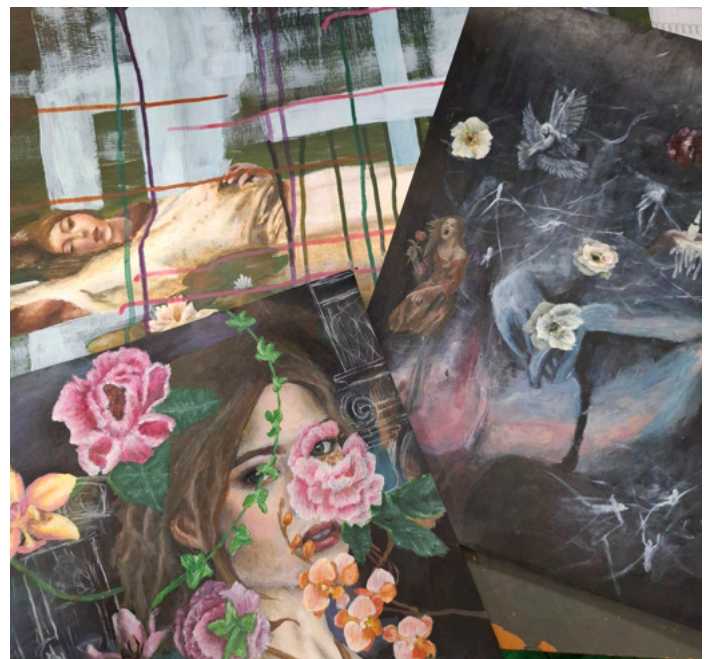
Two weeks of exams have just been completed with CAA literacy and numeracy assessments and derived grade exams. The literacy and numeracy assessments are very important for our students because they must have these credits to gain their NCEA qualification. Derived grade exams are also important because if a student is unable to sit an external exam in November due to sickness, injury or other circumstances, they have a grade which NZQA can draw on and can be used towards NCEA. Our students have been sitting their derived grades throughout the second to last week of term and some of these will continue into Term 4. Well done to the students who have prepared well for these exams and thank you to our teachers who will be marking these assessments over the holidays.



Art

The Art department is now in full external mode with our seniors working on their final pieces for their folios.

This example is from Kayla Reid in year 13, who is working on her developmental work for her final panel. This is stunning work from a dedicated Art student, who is also going to do a Visual Arts degree at Massey next year, with a career pathway as an Art Teacher.



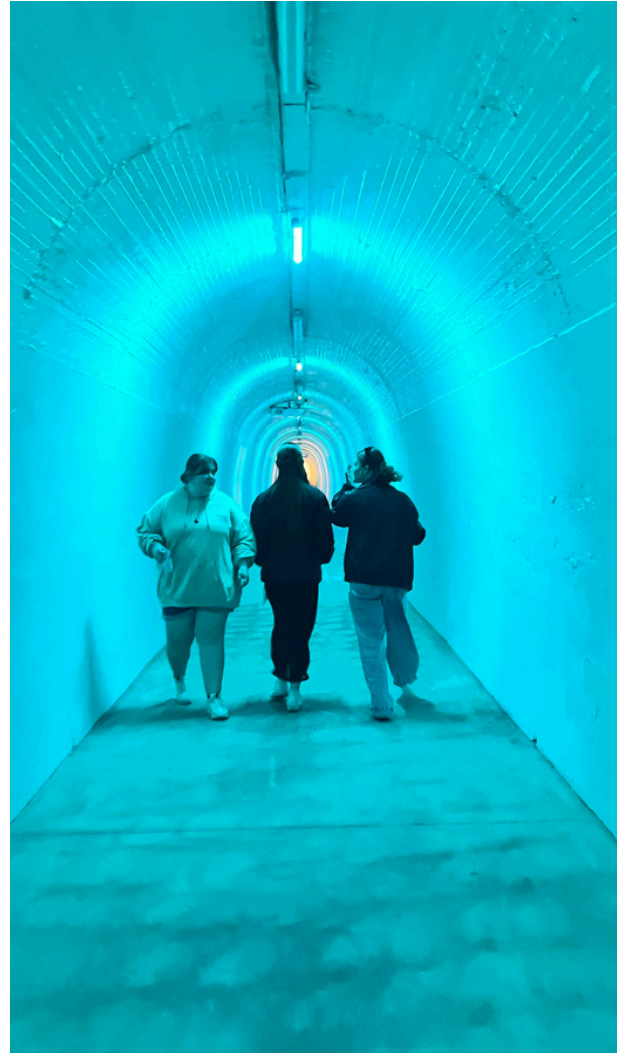


Art History

Senior Art History students travelled to Whanganui with Whaea Talula to view the recently restored and updated Sarjeant Art Gallery. This was a great experience where students were able to view a range of artworks historic and contemporary (some of the works on display were from the 1700's) and view the historic and contemporary architecture of the building too.

While in Whanganui students also were able to experience the iconic Gottfried Lindauer Portraits on display at the nearby museum and explore the historic Durie Hill elevator tunnel too.

Art History is more than just historic art and architecture and next year will be re-branded to Arts Journalism as a subject to more accurately represent the nature of the learning and outcomes within it. Trips like these contribute to ideas and inspiration for our internal assessments where we create Interviews, Podcasts, Magazine articles and much more that cover a range of historic and contemporary art topics.





Censor 4 a Day

Censor 4 a Day is a popular event where senior Media Studies students get to learn about the work of Te Mana Whakaatu, The Classification Office. Our Year 13 Media Studies students got to watch a pre-release film and participate in discussions to get them thinking critically about entertainment media. The film we watched was a psychological thriller called 'The Surfer' and starred Nicholas Cage as a surfer who had returned to the idyllic beach of his childhood to surf with his son. Students were tasked with using the classification criteria to give the film a rating based on the content. It was a valuable learning experience and gave our senior media students a unique insight into the world of film classification.



Sport

We're excited to welcome 14 year old Tevita Manumua to Horowhenua College!!

Tevita has recently moved from Tonga to New Zealand and brings with him an amazing sporting background. This talented young man has represented in AFL, Touch, Rugby, Football, and even had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the Olympic Games!

Originally from Tonga and having spent time in Australia with his older brother Hosea, he has already achieved more than most his age and he's just getting started. Whether it's on the field, court, or in the classroom, we're proud to support him as he continues his journey here with us. Keep an eye out—he's one to watch!





Adventure Challenge

Seven Services Academies gathered in Rotorua on the 7th and 8th of September to compete for the prestigious Adventure Challenge trophy. After two days of preparation and fierce competition, this year's trophy was proudly claimed by the Queen Elizabeth College Services Academy from Palmerston North.

Congratulations to all participants, especially our team, and well done to the champions!





Architecture

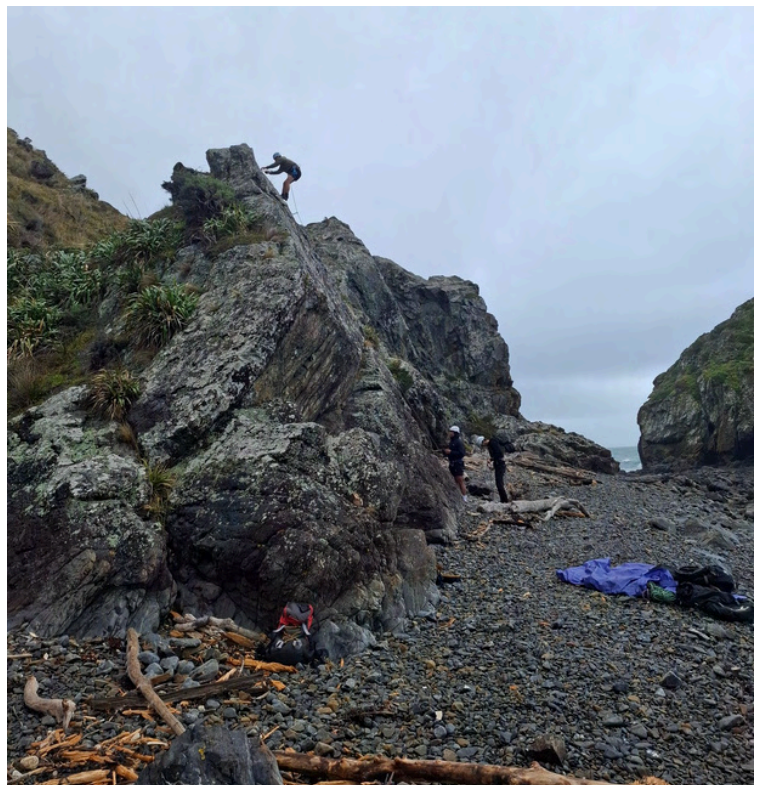
Five senior Architecture students, who are looking to pursue a career in Architecture, attended the Open Studios Festival of Architecture in Wellington. Students gained a really clear understanding of the pathways available after college by being given a 2 hour custom tour of the Victoria School of Architecture and Design, after which we met with Horowhenua College alumni who shared their post-school study experiences in spatial design.





Outdoor Education

Year 13 Outdoor Education students climbed at Tītahi Bay and Pukerua Bay this term, beginning with top-rope climbing before advancing to lead climbing by the end of the term.





TheatreSports

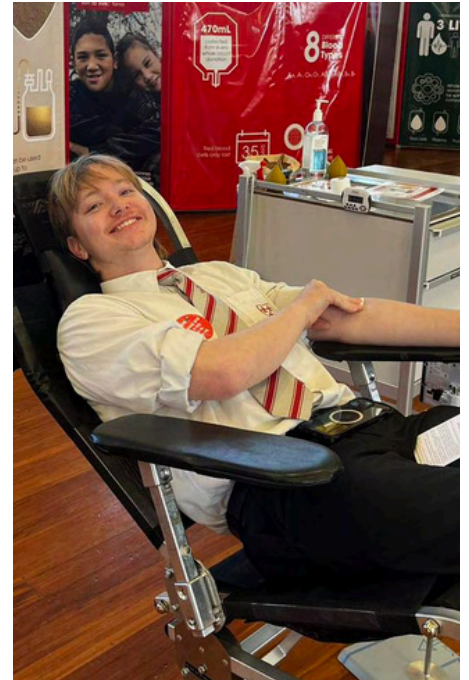
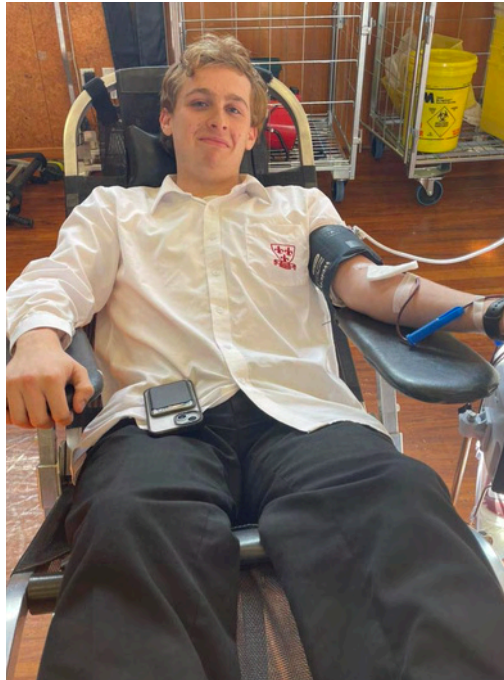
Over the past few weekends our Theatre Sports team of Imogen Williamson, Verde Kjestrup, Elissa Westerby and Tiana Fryer have been rehearsing and practising a range of Theatre Sports games to compete in the Manawatu Secondary Theatre Sports Competition at Centerpoint Theatre. Although we didn't come away with any prizes this year, the girls represented our school well and had the audience in fits of laughter. Well done, ladies. You were awesome.





Blood Drive

Well done to our staff and students who were able to donate in August at the NZ Blood Drive!



Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori





Namiki

This term we welcomed another group from Namiki, our sister school in Japan. We spent a great couple of weeks with them and it is always sad to see them go.





Rugby

Congratulations to Dvelle Davis, Sivad Reweti, Taizarrah Toeileu, Kalais Tatana-Tovo, Christine Tauro, Jekaylah Pomare, Keyleigh Pearson, Silvia Taeiloa, Kalani Ranish, Ella Jones, Scarlett Fonoti, Nicky-Sei Luli and Tarynn Hunia who have been named in the Horowhenua Kapiti U16 Girls Rugby Squad.



Congratulations to Ezra Masoe, Pene Jr Tomane, Nivana Hendry, Tooma Taubaaki, Tamaroa Tamaroa, Key Tuilaepa, Noa Stevens, Azaria Ngobi, Poasa Leitupo and Dayton Luka who were named in the Horowhenua Kapiti U16 Rugby Squad.





Annuals

Each year we compete against Waiopahu College in our “Annuals”. This is always a fantastic event and we thoroughly enjoy both playing and supporting.





Annuals





Annuals





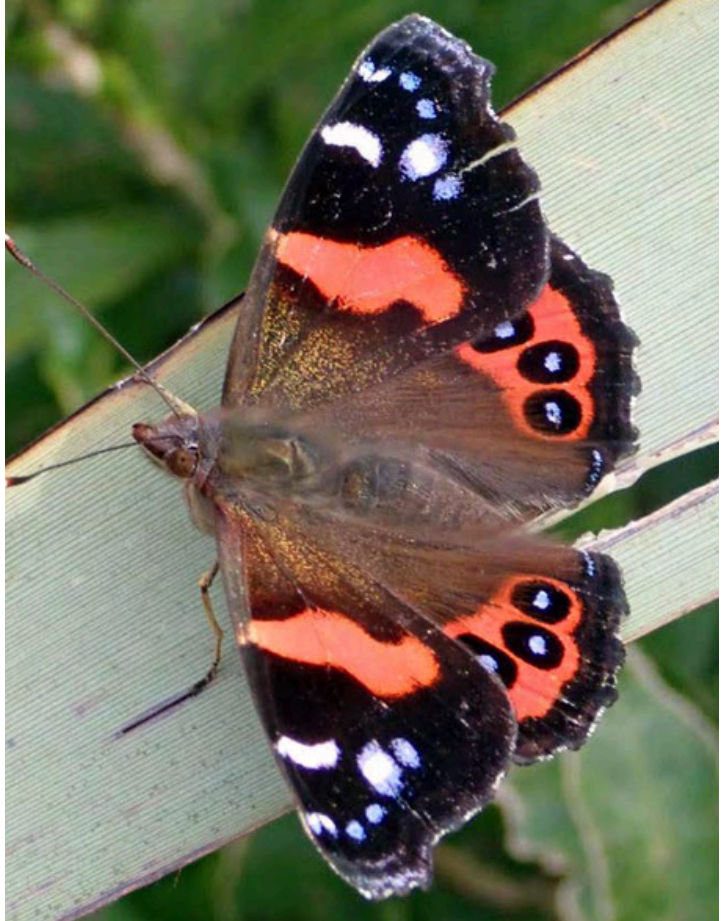
Annuals





Butterflies

A year in review of the butterfly sanctuary, so far we have released 153 Admirals and 267 Monarchs and counting!





Haka Competition





Haka Competition





College Contact Details

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Website: www.horowhenua.school.nz

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



Term 4 Dates

October:

6th October: Term 4 Begins

14 October: Sports Awards

27 October: Labour Day

November:

4 November: NZQA Exams Begin

December:

1 December: Senior Prizegiving

2 December: Rangatahi Ora Prizegiving

8 December: Year 9 & 10 Activities Week

11 December: Junior Prizegiving / Term 4 Ends