



He Huarahi Tamariki

SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 4 2024

Prize Giving and Graduation 2024

Despite 2024 being a year with many challenges, or maybe even because of it, our end of year celebrations felt better than ever. In a year of reflection (It's not every year you turn 30!) it has been heartening to see our core values and principles remaining strong throughout it all.

From the words of our Graduate Guest Speaker Lania O'Toole:

"HHT became a haven for some, HHT was able to provide a home away from home, a safe space, a second family and within our teaching staff, a positive and supportive father/mother figure, for those that needed one, two or three. We became older siblings to the younger mums, who needed more support in their newly mothering roles. I grew up here and so did my children."

To those of our 2024 Graduate Omapere Heke:

"...we have the best support and safest learning environment. You are all beautiful human beings inside and out who want nothing more but the best for your students. Thank you for giving us a second home and a place where we can all strive to succeed."

Heartening too, to be able to be grateful for support from our amazing community over 3 decades, whilst some relationships are more recent than others, many have spanned 20 years or more.

We would like to finish 2024 by congratulating all of our students on their achievements this year! To those of you graduating, we wish you all the best, stay in touch! To those of you returning – we look forward to working with you all in 2025.



Above: He Huarahi Tamariki 2024 Graduates (L-R) Kirsten Garcia, Paris Hinton, Lahni Tucker, Omapere Heke, Hayley Ahu, Jade Ellis (absent).
Clockwise from Left: Tennesse Ahu and Paula Hay, Omapere Heke & Hayley Ahu, Leone Sinafili Malo, Lahni Tucker with daughter Zara, HHT Guest Graduate Speaker Lania O'Toole.

Student Contribution — Letter to Myself

Dear Younger Self,

I understand that you're in a place where everything feels intense and overwhelming, a place where love and pain intertwine, clouding your vision. Thankfully, 21 year old you is no longer blinded by love and will be here as a beacon of light in the darkness, ready to walk beside you until the storm subsides and the calm returns.

Let's talk about your boyfriend. I know you care deeply for him and maybe even believe that your love can cure all obstacles. It's natural to want to believe in the best of our partners, to see them through a lens of love and admiration. Yet, it's equally important to recognize any red flags or warning signs that may indicate underlying issues within the relationship. It's time you take a step back and ask yourself some tough questions.

Is this relationship good for you? Knowing you, you probably answered yes. Let me ask you this instead, if you looked at your relationship from an outside perspective, would you still think so? Are there patterns of behavior that cause you distress or discomfort? Are there unresolved conflicts or communication barriers that linger beneath the surface? Does it give you a sense of value, respect, and support? Or does it leave you feeling drained, anxious and uncertain about yourself? Self-honesty is crucial. Stop making excuses for his awful behavior. You can only hide from the truth for so long and now is the time to put all that effort into something worthwhile. There are more negative consequences to this relationship than you are currently aware of. Realizing that is the first step towards a much happier and healthier you.

(continued inside)

Tēnā koutou katoa

*The following is an extract from Kaiārahi
Paula Hay's speech at Prize Giving 2024*

30 years ago, He Huarahi Tamariki, started and led by Susan Baragwanath, was creating a holistic teaching and learning and supportive whānau space for young parents to succeed with their education AND parenting at the same time. Her words from her prizegiving speech in 1999 - marking 5 years of HHT, make as much sense today as they did 25 years ago.

“He Huarahi Tamariki is a family, and as families go we are a very strong one. Of course we fight from time to time and on the odd occasion stamp our feet but the strength in our family is what counts. When push comes to shove people are there for each other and that's what counts. We have enjoyed the support and love that we share”

I have enjoyed some time looking back through the archives, while at the same time observing where He Huarahi Tamariki is today, and making plans for the future. I was recently at a presentation by Neavin Broughton (Te Ātiawa), a te kahui kura facilitator, who shared te ōhākī a Te Wharepōuri.

I muri nei, kia pai ki aku taonga Māori, taonga Pākehā. Kia tae ake te haruru o to reo ki ahau i Te Reinga.

After I have gone, be good to my Māori and non-Māori people. And let the thunder of your voice reach me in the spirit land.

An Ōhākī is a parting wish - spoken as final instructions before death. The Tenths Trust, and Te Raukura, Te Wharewaka o Pōneke use this ōhākī from Te Wharepouri as a guiding statement.

I muri nei: Future focused and sustainable.

Kia pai ki aku taonga Māori, taonga Pākehā: Inclusive and diverse.

Kia tae ake te haruru o tō reo ki ahau: Makes positive impacts on society and the environment.

I te Reinga: Intergenerational pride.

This speaks to me, and the mahi we do here at He Huarahi Tamariki. We look forward into the future, and make plans to create the most positive impacts we can within our community, and the wider community we are a part of and at all times we acknowledge the multi-generations that we have here with our young parents and their tamariki, and have pride in the accomplishments of all those who are here today, and have come before us.

*Ngā mihi nui,
Paula Hay – Kaiārahi*

Welcome to our New Babies!



Jhan, a girl – Mary

30 Years Young!



Above: Aroha, Lania, Helen, Patsy, Jacinta, Régis, Glenis & Chantelle.
Clockwise from Left Top: Lania with children Faith & Aroha. Chantelle. Leiana & Sarah-Jane with baby Theo. Régis with Robin.



This November we were blessed to be able to celebrate 30 years at He Huarahi Tamariki. We had a wonderful morning with our extended whānau of current and past students, staff and supporters. Whether it was ‘finding yourself’ in a copy of Tuawahine or on one of the many photo boards, or reminiscing about van drivers and teachers; we had a lot of fun sharing memories together. It was particularly special hearing news from all of those past students who came and talked about what they have been doing since they left and getting updates on their ‘babies’.

Thanks to all who helped organise the day and to all who spent time with us celebrating. It is a journey well worth remarking on.

We are keen to support a student reunion next year alongside the launch of Susan Baragwanath's book about He Huarahi Tamariki. There is a committee forming for this and you can get involved by emailing us on 30years@hht.school.nz or by ringing the school.

Letter to Myself (continued)

Life holds boundless possibilities beyond the confines of this relationship. I empathize with your reluctance to accept this as I was in your exact position many years ago, however this also has its own advantage. I am writing to you, as you, but in the mind space you have been longing for. Trust my guidance, and in moments of doubt, just remember: we've already conquered this challenge once before. Clinging onto this relationship longer will only lead to a worse outcome, trust me. You were happy before he came into your life and you will no doubt find that happiness again without him. While confronting this reality may be difficult, swallowing this pill is essential to forge a path towards self growth and genuine contentment. You are stronger than you think, capable and deserving of love and respect. Up your standards, know your worth, trust yourself and have faith that things will get better with time. Right now, you're stubbornly holding on to the belief that he's the only one who could possibly bring you happiness. But that is truly not the case. A relationship alone cannot fulfill your needs; that responsibility lies within yourself.

You are obstinate to change as you fear the aftermath; however, time does wonders and will be your remedy throughout

the pain you encounter. Though the road ahead may seem daunting, know that I believe in your strength and resilience. With each step forward, you are paving a way towards healing and growth. And while the journey may be arduous at times, remember that every challenge you overcome, every obstacle you face, brings you closer to the peace and clarity you seek. But in the midst of this storm, I want you to know that you are not alone. Your struggles, your fears, your hopes—they are all valid, and they are seen.

I am here, standing steadfast beside you, ready to offer solace and support as you navigate through these turbulent waters. Together, we can unravel the knots of confusion, gently untangle the threads of uncertainty, and chart a course towards a brighter tomorrow. We can create a safe harbor, a place where all these present worries do not exist, where you can begin anew. We can and WILL make it to the other side. However, better done sooner than later and I promise you it'll all be worth it in the end.

Take care,
Future You

Paris Hinton

Art Excursion



Bella with her work.

At the end of term 3 we had an excursion to Wellington to see two Art Exhibitions. First we went to the New Zealand Portrait Gallery to see the Robyn Kahukiwa Tohunga Mahi Toi exhibition and the staff there ran a workshop for our students.

Then, after a lovely walk along the waterfront, it was off to see the Ringa Toi exhibition at Te Papa. The Ringa Toi exhibition showcases the best of Māori and Pasifika NCEA

art students for 2024 and this year it included work by He Huarahi Tamariki student Bella Greening.



Some of the school group at the Ringa Toi exhibition at Te Papa

Toitū Te Tiriti!



Clockwise from left: Tiara & Kohine waiting for the hikoi to come past. The school group ready to go. Te Hikoi passing through. Leone and Jahkana.

The Toitū Te Tiriti hikoi earlier this term was a good opportunity to learn about peaceful protest and demonstration rights in Aotearoa and about our founding documents. Our history teacher Helen Bean ran an information session from a historical perspective and Kohine Balejko our kaupapa Māori teacher gave us information about the current context and purpose behind the march.

For the students and staff that were able to go on this excursion it was an experience like no other to be present at this peaceful protest.

HHT Special School Awards

Please join us in celebrating the recipients of the He Huarahi Tamariki 2024 Special School Awards.



He Huarahi Tamariki Outstanding Attendance Award:
Hayley Ahu & Tiara Shepherd

Clifton Buck Memorial cup for Excellence in Writing (Level 3): Paris Hinton



He Huarahi Tamariki Excellence in Level 2 Writing:
Hayley Ahu

He Huarahi Tamariki Contribution to Sports Award:
Leone Sinafili Malo



He Huarahi Tamariki Resilience & Attitude Award:
Tiara Shepherd



He Huarahi Tamariki Values Award for Aroha:
Tennessee Ahu (left)

He Huarahi Tamariki Values Award for Rangatiratanga:
Hayley Ahu (right)



2024 Graduates & Scholarships

We are pleased to announce our Graduates for 2024 and what their plans are for 2025. Heartfelt thanks go to our donors and the He Huarahi Tamariki Trust for the scholarships that will support them.



Lahni Tucker — Recipient of the Zonta Mana Scholarship
Certificate in Health Level 3 and Pathways for Nursing Level 4 at (NZMA)

Paris Hinton — Graduate Women Wellington Scholarship
Bachelor of Design with Honours (Massey University Wellington)



Kirsten Garcia — Margaret Lynne Baxter Award & Marcia Spencer Award
Pathways for Nursing Level 4 (NZMA)

Hayley Ahu — Masonic Knights Templar Scholarship & Laptop
Entering the workforce



Omapere Heke — HHT Trust Memorial Brian & Pat Tyler Scholarship
Certificate in Health Level 3 and Pathways for Nursing Level 4 at (NZMA)

Jade Ellis — John McIntyre Award:
NZ Certificate in Health & Wellbeing (Social & Community Services Level 4) (Open Polytechnic) (Absent at Prize Giving)



A very big thank you to all the public and private donors who have supported us recently. Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you to He Huarahi Tamariki Trust, Mike McCombie, Zonta Club of Mana, Ian Crabtree Charitable Trust, Herbert Teagle Masonic Perpetual Trust, Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowment Trust, The Women's Centre, The David Daily Charitable Trust, The family of Ray Matthews, Presbyterian Support Central—Bichan Trust, Pat Lummis, Inner Wheel Club of Tawa, Levin Catholic Women's League, Janet Gottschalk, the many individuals who supported our ZUMBA fundraiser, Kiwi Community Assistance, Beanies for Babies, Parish of Pauatahanui, Arise Church, Pregnancy Help, Loved for Life, The Salvation Army, and many others who donate used equipment and clothing.

Donations towards the work of the school (03-0547-0671844-000) are always welcome and donations to the graduate scholarship fund can be made to the HHT Trust (02-0548-0369188-000). Either of these are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.

If you have changed address or would like the newsletter emailed to you, please contact us via info@hht.school.nz

Our host school is Wellington East Girls' College - Principal: Gael Ashworth



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He Huarahi Tamariki
School for Teenage Parents,
Wellington, NZ

“Of course you can do it”