



Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa. Kam na bane ni mauri. Greetings to you all. This is my first newsletter as principal, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the remarkable

warmth of our welcome to Mahurangi College. My family and I were blown away by our pōwhiri. This is a special community and I look forward to meeting many of you over the course of the next few months.

Strolling the grounds and chatting with the students I've been hugely impressed with their friendliness. They have without exception been polite, affable and welcoming. I look forward to watching them develop over the next few years into clever, creative, opinionated and resilient young adults.

for students to be relaxed, happy and kind, focused on learning, behaving impeccably within a light-touch behaviour regime. High standards of behaviour and uniform are entirely compatible with a friendly, happy, relaxed school and form the platform for high expectations of academic achievement. Thank-you for the work you do instilling these values in your children - it certainly makes it easy for us to build a safe and positive culture.

at home. Let's hope that we've seen the last lockdown for 2021. At Level 1 a whopping 70.5% of students achieved either a Merit or Excellence award, again a record for the College. Results for both Māori and Pasifika students were also pleasing, with Māori students up 12% at Level 2 and 92.9% of Pasifika students achieving Level 3, both outstanding results. Congratulations also to our NZQA Scholarship winners; Robert Ennis who achieved two scholarships, (including outstanding for English), Leilani Jones who also achieved two scholarships, and Willow Whitham who secured a Design scholarship (below).

our efforts to make things accessible to pupils we have sometimes made things too easy. When talking to some of our most successful students, getting their views on how they had learnt to produce such beautiful work, a recurring factor emerged. They had been taught higher quality content than is typical; harder, more sophisticated material that their friends hadn't been exposed to.

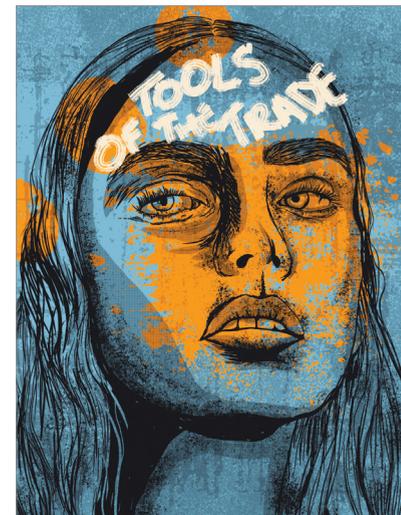
Equally impressive has been the level of creativity at Mahurangi, exemplified by initiatives such as the tiny home, the EVelocity programme, the emerging STEAM programme, and the Hoteo partnership. Over the course of the year I'll share more details with you, and look at ways the school can partner with you to utilise the expertise that exists in the Rodney community.

I am delighted to report that Mahurangi students have achieved their best ever NCEA pass rates at all three levels. Students at Level 1 gained a 90.1% pass rate, students at Level 2 92.5%, and students at Level 3 85.9%. These are superb results, significantly in excess of decile 8-10 schools. They are testimony to the hard work of teachers during the most challenging of circumstances, coupled with excellent application from students, and of course your support

Over the course of this year we intend to focus on refining our curriculum, ensuring that all courses provide appropriate rigor and challenge for students. Too often in this country, I believe, students are under-challenged by work that is either too easy, or that they have done previously. Mistakenly, in

Here at Mahurangi, we want every student to achieve excellence and produce exceptional work, while still giving us scope to explore the 'hinterland' to ensure our curriculum is rich and inclusive. Skillful scaffolding from our teachers will ensure all learners are fully supported to achieve their potential. We've got some new and exciting scholarship and university preparation courses in the pipeline - watch this space! Ngā mihi nui.

Tony Giles - **PRINCIPAL**





On Friday 12 February our competitive swimmers were invited to participate in our annual School Swimming Championships. The day drew some great results, with 12 new records set by seven different swimmers. Results and records from the swim can be viewed on Facebook.

A ROUGH START TO YEAR 13 GREAT BARRIER ISLAND CAMP

115 students, parents and teachers assembled on the Sandspit Wharf in the small hours of Sunday 31 January, ready for our annual Year 13 camp and tramp. Despite leaving in calm, pleasant conditions, a good easterly groundswell became obvious as we cleared the heads between Tawharanui and Kawau Island. Before long there was a steady procession of seasick students to the back rail. Thankfully young bodies recover quickly, as once we disembarked at Port Fitzroy each tramping party hit the tracks running. Able Company headed for the high ground, up the

Kaiarara Valley, out to Coopers Castle to camp at Akapoua. Baker Company started their leadership training at Claris. Charlie Company started with the dreaded Tramline Track, across the island, to finish at the Green campsite on the shores of the Whangaparapara Harbour. Delta Company attacked Mt Hobson and exited via Windy Canyon to camp at Okiwi School. Lastly, Easy Company scanned ahead along the eastern coastline and finished at the Haratoanga Beach campsite. Each group rotated through each of the tracks and campsites to end up back at Akapoua

Campsite. Past teacher and original instigator of the Barrier trip (some 32 years ago), Ross Walker and wife Pam were invited to our Barrier Idol, as honored guests, to assist the judging. Easy Company were the clear standouts with their circus themed performance. Fortunately, the swell had abated in time for our departure. Everyone came away with a new-found respect for their own resilience, many fond memories and some new friendships to sustain their academic pursuits for the year ahead. My thanks to our staff and parent helpers. **-R Stirling TIC Year 13 Camp**



ANIWA HEKE ACHIEVER OF THE MONTH

Head Girl 2021
Cultural Blue for 2018, 2019 & 2020
Academic Blue for Excellence L1 NCEA
Academic Blue for Excellence L2 NCEA
Sport Blue 2020
Member of Kapa Haka
Mediator

*Pictured with Carol Maxwell
Customer Experience Manager*

Proudly Supporting Mahurangi College

**MITRE 10
MEGA**

Cnr Woodcocks Rd & Mansel Drive
WARKWORTH Phone 425 8119

