

Newsletter

27th September 2024-Term 3 Week 10

Tena koutou katoa

As I sit down to write my final newsletter as Principal, my heart is filled with gratitude, reflection, and fond memories. After 25 amazing years at what I consider, my beloved school, it is time for me to retire and begin the next chapter in my life. These years have been the most fulfilling and rewarding of my career, and I am deeply grateful for that.

First and foremost, to all the students I have had the privilege to teach, and watch grow, some into gorgeous adults too—**thank you**. Each of you has been a joy to know. You have brought energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm to our classrooms, and seeing you learn and thrive has been my greatest reward, even those of you who challenged me at times. Your laughter, resilience, and creativity have made every day special, whether you've graduated long ago or are still here today, you've each left an imprint on my heart.

To the **staff**—past and present—thank you for your hard work, passion, and dedication. You can't be a teacher today without passion, no teacher today does it for the money or the workload, it is dedication to the little people they work with that drives them to do what they do every day. Our staff are the backbone of this school, and without their daily contributions, we would not be the thriving, welcoming place that we are today. I have been privileged to work with some of the most talented and passionate educators, and I will miss our shared mission to inspire and educate the young minds of tomorrow.

I also want to extend my sincerest thanks to the **PTA**. Your dedication, tireless work, and unwavering support have been invaluable. You've helped organize events, fundraisers, and provided so many resources, we couldn't possibly afford otherwise and supported experiences at our camps, many would not have been able to attend without your huge contribution, allowing camps to be affordable for all. Your commitment to making our school an amazing place is something I will always cherish.

To past **Boards of Trustees**, I thank you for your support and collaboration over the years. Your vision and commitment to ensuring that our school was a happy, healthy place of learning, and growth, has contributed to us being a great little school. It has been an honour working alongside people dedicated to our students and working to the good for all.

Our small, rural school holds a special place in my heart, not just because of the beautiful location, but also because of the **community** that surrounds it. Parents, caregivers, and community members—thank you for entrusting your children to us and for playing such an active, supportive role in their education.

Hora Hora School celebrated its centenary in 2009, a hugely attended event. We often have ex-students and teachers visiting us and looking around the school, talking to us about their fond memories and experiences. Just this week the students met with Jack Scott, a family who have been in our district since 1896 to talk to us about life in this school and district from his family's perspective. Our students loved listening to him and hearing about his and his family's experiences.

Everyone who has ever visited our school has told us what a beautiful school we have, in an amazing area with gorgeous children. We need to remember that and ensure our school survives for another 100 years! It is a unique entity, and the students and people I have worked with have been my focus and passion for all of these years.

As I step away, I do so knowing that the school is going through some changes that will challenge those left behind. With a changing community, and a falling roll, we are forced to lose a teacher next year. Children of a rural school are the lifeblood of a school and community, and without this, there is no school. I thank all those parents, staff and students I have worked with for the love, kindness, and support you have shown me over these past 25 years. This community has been my home, and I will forever carry the memories and experiences with me.

With warmest regards and a full heart,

Joanne Synge

Teacher / Principal (1999 - 2024) Hora Hora School

As Joanne prepares to leave Hora Hora School after 25 years of dedicated service and part of our community for over 40 years, the Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for her contributions to the school.

Throughout her time here, Joanne has been a steady and reliable presence, guiding the school through many changes and challenges. She has worked hard to ensure that Hora Hora School remained a place where students could thrive both academically and personally, while also fostering a supportive environment for staff. We've seen Joanne take on many roles over the years, whether it was overseeing the day-to-day operations of the school, attending community events, or working behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. Her dedication to the students and staff has been clear in everything she has done, and we know that she will be missed by the students, staff and community.

Joanne's leadership has helped shape the school in many positive ways, and we are confident that Hora Hora School will continue to build on this legacy in the years to come.

As Joanne moves on to enjoy time with her family we wish her all the best. We thank her for her time, hard work, and commitment to our school.

We look forward to welcoming back Kirsty Steeghs as relieving principal next term. The Board and Consultant are well underway recruiting our full-time principal for 2025.

Roger Laxon
Board of Trustees Presiding Member

A message from the PTA

We have three members of the committee leaving us at the end of the year, two of these being our current Chairperson and Treasurer.

To give you an idea of how essential the PTA is, over the last 12 months we have raised \$25,000.00 for the school in these following events: Chocolate Sales, Beer & Burger Night, Lamb Tailing, Hare Hunt, Calf Sales and BBQ & Food Sales.

So far \$20,000 of that has been spent on some of the following:

Major contribution to School Camps, The flying fox, Classroom Furniture, Literacy Resources and Teacher Resources.

Next year we have a fabulous current committee member taking over the reins and it would be great to see some new faces step up and join the PTA so it can continue to thrive and provide amazing opportunities for the children of Hora Hora School.

HORAHORA SCHOOL AG DAY

Calling all friends of the community...
Please come along to support the school children; see our school in action & support the PTA.



Judging from 10am.
Cake auction after

Thursday October 17th prizegiving (approx 1pm)

