



"Maa mahi,
ka ora"



Matamata
College

CONTACT

CONTACT— December 4, 2018

Why Phoenix Palms Had To Go



For many the Phoenix Palm trees out the front of the school were considered iconic. In the years leading up to the College Centenary there was considerable debate when talk of them coming down was mentioned. For many students they were seen as a symbol of welcome to the school and were chosen by the Centenary organizing committee as a feature of the Centenary program cover. Due

to their significance the Board of Trustees agreed to leave them standing until after the Centenary. However, during Camp Week a few weeks ago it was time for them to come down. These Phoenix Palms were impressive. Towering high above A Block they have long been a feature of the school frontage for decades. So why did they have to go? As the trees got bigger so did the palm throngs. Due to their size the throngs were increasingly susceptible to falling in high winds and a potential danger to anyone walking below. High in the palm throngs an ever growing population of pigeons resided. Known as the rats of the sky, these birds breed prolifically. Despite attempts to control their numbers we simply could not keep it up. With the Phoenix Palms the home for literally hundreds of birds the pathway and grounds below were hideous with bird defecation damaging the grass and building up on the concrete path. This also affected the front wall of A Block which also became part of the pigeons' toilet. Things had become so bad over time that the stench of the bird droppings hit you as soon as you moved to the front of A Block. This made it most unpleasant for students coming into school and/or waiting for buses after school. Just how bad this situation was, was highlighted when our grounds

staff spent several days water-blasting the area in preparation for the Centenary celebration. Two days later the cleaning proved to be a waste of time. A longer term issue was the flies attracted by the stench to the area. The mixture of smell and fly infestation making it untenable to open A Block windows. With the trees now gone, this is no longer an issue and at last our students and staff have access to fresh air. Another factor the Board took into consideration was the cost of tree maintenance and pest control. The estimate to maintain/prune the Phoenix Palms and pest control in this part of the school for the next ten years would have been in excess of \$35,000. This money is better spent on the teaching and learning needs of students. With many of the original school trees reaching their used-by date, in the last two years we have had to commit over \$25,000 to tree maintenance. Moving forward we have to commit around \$10,000 of our budget annually for this purpose. The Board is committed to looking after our wonderful grounds and have a replanting programme planned to make sure that trees remain a feature of our school grounds.



Pictured above is Mr Geoff Harrison who kindly donated his time and machinery to clean up the felled Phoenix Palms. The waste was taken away to be used as landfill. Out thanks to the Harrison family for their wonderful support which has saved the school thousands of dollars.

Year 9 Camp & Year 10 EOTC Week

My thanks to my wonderful staff for the work and effort that went into our Camp Week. It was my pleasure to spend time at the extremely well run Year 9 Camp at Findlay Park. It was pleasing to see the students making the most of the marvellous opportunities available throughout the Camp. Year 10's also had an amazing week travelling far and wide and taking part in some great activities. Please see the following pages for some brief reports back from a variety of Camps.

A Munro, Principal

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WHAKATAUKI

*Ko koe ki teena,
ko ahau ki teenei
kiiwai o te kete*



*You at that,
and I at this
handle of the
basket*

*By working
together we move
forward*



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ka ora"



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Beehive City Limits



Wellington Camp 2018 was very successful. The students were wonderful. We went to Parliament, Te Papa, Carter's Observatory, the Wellington Zoo and Peter Jackson's exhibition inside the War Memorial building. Lots of shopping, ice-cream and fun was had by all. One change for our future trips to Wellington will be to ban sugar! Miss Liddle, Miss Waugh and Miss Kriel thank the students for being exemplary and rising to the challenges.

Coromandel Camp



From our base at Whenuakite we explored some of the Coromandel Peninsular beaches. We visited Hot Water Beach, Hahei, Cooks Beach, Cathedral Cove and Tairua. A favourite activity of most of our group was our sea kayaking adventure. We set off from Hahei Beach, and landed at Cathedral Cove for a hot chocolate on the beach. We kayaked past the Cove and then returned to Hahei. The kayaks were all doubles with

the person in the back controlling the rudder, so the person in the front of the kayak had to trust their partner was taking them in the right direction!

Students led most of the activities and were responsible for imparting some knowledge of the area. Groups of students cooked and cleaned in the kitchen area and we were reasonably well fed for the week. The highlight on the food front was the amazing home baking.

- *Kim Lawrence*

Biking the Redwoods



Sean Fullick and I had the pleasure of taking fifteen boys to **The Redwoods** in **Rotorua** for the Mountain Biking Camp. The students were a credit to themselves and the school. They challenged themselves physically and mentally all week and all boys improved as the week went on. The only downside was Anton Ganas breaking his collar bone on day 2. Thank you to the excellent rescue team at Mountain Bike Rotorua who came up to the top of the Redwoods to collect Anton and bring him down. - *Alex Ball*





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Heretaunga – Hastings Trip

Ngati Kahunugunu ki Heretaunga
Ko Kahukaaranaki te maunga
Ko Ngaruroro te awa
Ko Takitimu te waka
Ko Ngati Kahungunu te iwi
Ko Heretaunga te taiwhenua



A group of excited students, Matua Alex and Whaea Jordene headed out of town to the big smoke, Heretaunga – Hastings. Firstly, the weather was great. We stayed at two marae, Mangaroa and Ruahapia. We learnt about the eponymous ancestors Kahungunu, Rongomaiwahine, Mahinaarangi, Hinetera and the history of the area. We were fortunate to go to Kahotea, the Pa of the renowned ancestress Mahinaarangi who married Turongo of Tainui. This is the first time an outside group of Heretaunga has been there so we were very privileged. We were warmly welcomed by Te Aute College where [Āpirana Ngata](#), [Dr Pita Sharples](#), [Mason Durie](#), [Piri Weepu](#), Sir Howard Morrison and more attended. Following this we hit the beach at Mangakuri and stayed the night at a beach house. Splash Planet was next on the list and of course this was a day of awesome fun. Lastly, we headed up Te Mata o Rongokako (Te Mata Peak) to hear the legend of the mountain and view the amazing landscape. We returned home, knowing we learnt a lot and had a wonderful time in Kahungunu.



Junior Prize Giving and End of Term Arrangements.

Parents are reminded that our school year concludes with the Junior Prize Giving on Tuesday 11 December. This is a school day and students are to come in full school uniform. Please note: the Prize Giving begins at 11.00am and the school day ends at its completion at approximately 12.30 – 12.45pm. Buses will run at the usual times to fit in with the contributing schools but students are free to go for the afternoon at the Prize Giving's end.

Junior Volleyball Tournament

Mr Kilham reports that both our boys and girls teams played with distinction at last weeks North Island Secondary Schools' tournament in Papakura.

The Boys team which have only just come together this season did exceptionally well finishing 5th in Division 3. This is a fine effort for this developing side. Aply led by Conor Goodwin and Ollie Morton-Farrelly, the boys went from strength to strength and really pulled together as a team. Our thanks to Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Collins for their marvelous support of the boys throughout the week.

The Girls side did impressively making it to Division 1 for the first time for many a year. This in itself is a huge achievement and we were the smallest school to achieve this honour. Placed in a Division 1 pool with the eventual finalists was always going to be hard going but our girls showed some real class competing well against their highly favoured opponents. The girls bounced back to finish the tournament with two great wins in their final two games. This included a fine victory against arch rivals Fraser High School and meant they finished 13th overall. The star of the show for the girls was the talented Molly Allison and she was ably supported by her team mates, especially Casey Jones and Reanna Pou who simply got better as the tournament progressed. The team thanks Coach Mr Kilham and 'Volleyball Mum' and Manager Anna Allison for all their hard work last week and during the season.





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Matamata College

ORDER FORMS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO OR ON ARRIVAL

2018 EARY BIRD DATES AND TIMES

Tuesday November 27 to Friday December 7

1.00 pm – 1.45pm by appointment only – to book, email uniforms@matcol.nz

Thursday December 13 (last day of Intermediate)

1.00 pm – 5.00pm

2019 DATES AND TIMES

Tuesday January 22

10.00 am – 4.00 pm Pre-paid and Fitting Day ONLY

If paid in full before **January 16** simply attend the Pre-paid and fitting **ONLY** day on **January 22** for fitting and collection.

Wednesday January 23 & Friday January 25

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Thursday January 24

10.00 am – 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

N.B Fill in form with Name, Student ID and requirements (eg 1 x skirt, 2 x shirts), add it up and either pay on the day, on line by lump sum or automatic payment using **STUDENT ID NUMBER & UNIFORM** as a reference

ALL items must be paid in full before items are released – EFTPOS, VISA or MASTER CARD, CASH

PAYMENT WILL BE TAKEN, STUDENT WILL THEN BE FITTED

We do have some 2nd hand items for sale but not all sizes are available. First in first served.

We suggest you also watch for Buy Sell Facebook options.

LOOKING AHEAD TERM DATES FOR 2018—2019

Term 4 Junior Prizegiving 11 am Tues, 11 Dec
End of School 12.30—12.45pm

TERM DATES FOR 2019

Term 1 Begins Tuesday 29 January
Y9 & 13 Powhiri 8.45am
Y9 Orientation & Y13 Camp

Y10, Y11 & Y12 Thursday 31 January
Ends Friday 12 April

Term 2 Begins Monday 29 April
Ends Friday 5 July

Term 3 Begins Monday 22 July
Ends Friday 27 September

Term 4 Begins Monday 14 October
Final Day of School— 2019 Thursday 5 December

OUR SCHOOL IS GOING EAT SMART

Our school canteen service provider, Libelle Group, is teaming up with the Heart Foundation Fuelled4life and BioPak to bring us a Fresh Made approved and eco-friendly packaged menu - Eat Smart.

The Eat Smart menu features balanced meals designed by a team of nutritionists for kiwi school kids, so they have the right fuel to learn!

So what does this mean for us? Eat Smart will be launched at our school and nationwide by the beginning of Term 1, 2019.

The message is clear: **EAT WELL. DO BETTER.**

It is a nutritionally balanced, value-for-money school tuckshop menu offered throughout the country!

We are going digital with Txt My Lunch

Txt My Lunch is the solution to giving parents the guarantee that their hungry learner is getting a healthy, balanced meal - all for just \$6. Use Txt My Lunch to send a lunch directly to a students phone by text!

Save that 20 minutes of your day making lunch and buy or gift a meal ticket today at: www.txtmylunch.co.nz

BUY OR GIFT A LUNCH NOW AT
WWW.TXTMYLUNCH.CO.NZ

SEE THE FULL MENU AT
WWW.LIBELLE.CO.NZ

FEEDING HUNGRY LEARNERS
Gift a lunch to a student in need today!

GIFT A LUNCH >