



*Living the Mission  
through:  
Ako  
Manaakitanga  
Wāhine Toa*

**Sacred Heart Girls' College  
Manawa Tapu  
New Plymouth**

**TERM THREE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2025**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**TERM THREE**

**Thurs 21 Aug:**  
Highlands Sports  
Exchange

**Mon 25 Aug:**  
Staff Retreat Day—no  
school for students

**Mon 25—Fri 29 Aug:**  
Winter Tournament Week

**Mon 1—Fri 5 Sept:**  
AIMS Games Week

**Wed 3 Sept:**  
Teams Photos

**Mon 8—Fri 12 Sept:**  
Practice exams

**Mon 15 —Fri 19 Sept:**  
Te Wiki O te Reo Māori

**Tues 16 Sept:**  
Y12 Leadership Retreat

**Fri 19 Sept:**  
Last day of Term 3

**TERM THREE**

Mon 14 July—Fri 19 Sept

**TERM FOUR**

Mon 6 Oct-Wed 10 Dec



# Principal's Peace



Kia ora e te whānau

Tēnei te mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa i te wā o Hōtoke. Kei te pirangi ahau kia ora tōu whānau. Warm greetings to you all in this wintry weather. I hope you and your family are keeping well while we have so much sickness around.

Congratulations to all our students who have been participating regularly in a winter sport this year. Thank you to all our coaches, managers, umpires and parents who facilitate so many opportunities for our students. A massive CONGRATULATIONS to our Premier Netball team who have won the Premier 2 competition. Thank you to all of you who came along to support the team for the exciting final. (see details on page 11). We wish all our teams travelling to Winter Tournament games and the Aims Games a successful and rewarding time at their tournaments.

Last Friday we celebrated Founders' Day and the Feast of the Assumption with a whole school Mass at St Joseph's Church. Thank you to Father Tom and our RNDM Sisters: Sr Mary, Sr Carmel and Sr Margaret Mullin (who wore our korowai Te Ahu ō Ruahine), and Whaea Rita for making our Mass so special.

Back at school, we finished the day with a House Kapa Haka competition.



All of the Houses performed exceptionally well and judging was very difficult! (see pages 2 and 4 for photos).

Founders' Day concluded our Social Justice week. The Special Character Council put together activities to encourage our students to think about Social Justice.

In response to an appeal from our bishops, we supported MissionNZ with fundraising. Please see further details about this charity here: <https://missio.nz/>.

**"Te Hunga Hikoi i roto i te Tūmanako"**

**"Pilgrims of Hope"**

# Openly Engage with Community

Our course selection process for 2026 is underway. Course planning is important for our Year 8 to Year 12 students, and we remind students that there is lots of support for them to make careful, individual decisions. In addition to the year level assemblies and the course information evening that was held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August, there is lots of information in our Curriculum Handbook, available online [here](#). Our Academic Leaders, **Juliet Hitchcock** and **Amber Cayley** have also made some videos. Teachers and Deans are more than willing to have individual conversations with students or parents / caregivers. Please email your Dean if this is required.

In Board news, the current Board has now put together a Draft Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2028. This plan does not capture everything we are working on at Manawa Tapu, but sets our vision and aspirational goals for the next three years. Please give us feedback on the draft plan via the survey that has been emailed to you, by Monday 25 August. The new Board will take office in September and will then finalise the Strategic Plan before the end of the year.

On a more unusual note, we have had considerable issues with magpies down on our bottom field. This was an issue at this time of year last year too. Please note that we have been working closely with the Council on this issue and have been following their advice. We cannot shoot magpies at school but have been setting traps. We are also advised to avoid behaviour that provokes or harasses the magpies and should stay calm and quiet. Our students should not be on the bottom field without a staff member.

Kororia ki te Atua ki runga rawa, Maungarongo ki runga i te mata o te whenua, Whakaaro pai ki ngā tangata katoa ahakoa kō wai, Pai mārire.  
(Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth and goodwill to all people.)

**Barb Costelloe**  
Tumuaki—Principal



*Photos from Founders' Day Mass and House Kapa Haka*



**"Te Hunga Hikoi i roto i te Tūmanako"**

**"Pilgrims of Hope"**



# Nourish Catholic Character

## Social Justice Week: A Celebration of Compassion and Action

This year, we held Social Justice Week —and what an inspiring week it was! Led by **Meliz Cerda**, **Sienna Asi** and **Rhiannon Crowley**, along with the dedicated members of the Special Character Council, the week was filled with meaningful events that encouraged reflection, dialogue, and action around key social justice issues.

From engaging activities, Catholic Social Teaching prayers and a foyer display, the team did an outstanding job creating opportunities for our community to come together and make a difference. Their passion and commitment truly brought the spirit of justice and compassion to life. Gospel values in action!



### MissionNZ

All the money raised is going towards MissionNZ. What is MissionNZ?

**MISSIO** is the Pope's international Mission Agency in New Zealand.



Through a network of religious and lay missionaries, it operates in Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and the Americas, supporting children, communities, and future Church leaders across education, healthcare, and spiritual care.



## The Feast of the Assumption & Founders Day Mass– 15 August

This week we celebrated both the Feast of the Assumption and Founders' Day Mass together:

- **The Feast of the Assumption**

This is a holy day of obligation in the Catholic calendar in Aotearoa, New Zealand. It commemorates the belief that the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

- **Honouring Euphrasie Barbier – Our Foundress**

We held our whole school Mass at St Joseph's Church, we remembered Euphrasie Barbier (1829–1893), the founder of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. In 1884, the Sisters established a convent school with a boarding hostel in New Plymouth, near where St Joseph's Church now stands. The school welcomed both primary and secondary students. In 1960, it moved to Pukaka Street and became Sacred Heart Girls' College. As a school, we are proud to carry on Euphrasie's legacy—educating young people while embracing the Gospel values, communion, contemplation and mission.



# Openly Engage with Community

## *Founders' Day Mass at St Joseph's*

Held Friday 15 August, presided by  
Fr Tom Lawn.



## *Morning Tea*

A superb morning tea was catered by our Food Tech Students and Food Technology Teacher, Julia McNeil, which was enjoyed following Mass.

In the afternoon, House Kapa Haka soared from the Events Centre, as all Houses provided rich harmonies, competing for the House Kapa Haka title.



## *House Kapa Haka*

*Pictured right;*  
**congratulations to  
Lourdes House**  
who won the  
House Kapa Haka  
title.





# Nourish Catholic Character

## Sacramental Club

It has been so special and lovely to walk alongside three Senior Sacramental Club girls, **Lucia Veronese**, **Sinead O'Sullivan** and **Libby Robinson** from Sheree Rangiwhia's Faith in Action class. **Lucia** was Baptised, did her First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in our Mary Phelan Chapel at school.

**Libby** received her First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in our Chapel, and **Sinead** did her First Reconciliation in our Chapel and First Holy Communion at the Year 13 Mass at St Joseph's Church.

Beautiful to have all three together at a Class Mass in our Chapel, to receive their First Holy Communion badges from Fr Sobin. It has been a wonderful journey for them all.

Sheree, Wendy and Amelia wish them every blessing.



Any students interested in these Sacraments, please TEAMS message Miss Mulligan (DRS), Amelia (Chaplain), or their RST teacher.

## Primary School Teacher presentation

This term, a Year 10 RST class completed an assignment about their favourite primary school teacher, the amazing qualities this teacher has and why this teacher had such an impact on them. **Alice Quinn** and **LucyAnne Luke** both chose the same teacher and collaborated to produce a beautiful poster, alongside personal individual letters.

**Alice** and **LucyAnne**, former students of St Pius X School, chose to gift their work to their chosen teacher...so turned up at Monday morning prayer at St Pius X to give Mrs Anne Dent, DRS and teacher at St Pius X school, a surprise presentation of her poster and letters!

The girls had a lovely time, they got to sing an old school song with everyone, and celebrate the students receiving a certificate that week. I am sure Mrs Dent's poster will bring a smile to all who look at it!



# Nourish Catholic Character

## Baptism

**Ava-Lea Kerr** (Yr10) has also recently been Baptised in our Mary Phelan Chapel. It was lovely to welcome Ava-Lea's family to this special occasion, with Fr Simon celebrating the Mass. Sacred Heart is very blessed and thankful to have been gifted the beautiful wooden Baptismal Font from the parish in Manaia earlier this year. As a missional school, it is wonderful to be able to continue using this font to Baptise our students into the Catholic Faith.

**Wendy Mulligan – Director Of Religious Studies & Amelia Luke – School Chaplain**



## Careerforce

Careerforce is part of Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills Technology and provides Unit Standards for students who wish to study Healthcare and Youthwork through the Gateway programme.

Careerforce has well over 500 Gateway students enrolled every year from schools all over New Zealand. Most enrolments are for around 20 credits but every now and again we get an exceptional student who will complete a full qualification with us. **Emerson Bertie** is one such student. She has completed the full Certificate in Health and Wellbeing Level 3 and is the only school student in New Zealand to have done so this year. **Emerson** will now be well placed to work in NZ hospitals and rest homes or to enter programmes for further study in the health sector.

I thank Sacred Heart Girls' College New Plymouth for consistently enrolling dedicated students like **Emerson** with Careerforce. New Zealand's health workforce benefits greatly from your efforts!

**Anna Williams**  
Careerforce Sector Advisor



**Emerson Bertie**



# Openly Engage with Community

## Noho Marae at Muru Raupatu Marae

### A Special Journey for Our Māori Students

From the 23rd to the 24th of July, our Māori students were warmly welcomed to Muru Raupatu Marae for a noho marae experience that was both educational and deeply meaningful. This overnight stay provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect with each other, their heritage, and the local whenua.

One of the key parts of the noho was beginning our learning journey about the school korowai, Te Aho o Ruahine. We explored the story behind its conception and creation, gaining insight into its significance. This was just the beginning of our journey to understand how the values and meaning woven into the korowai can be incorporated into our everyday life at school.

We were privileged to be guided by Damon Ritai, who was instrumental in organising this noho. He also led us on a hīkoi around significant sites of Puketapu Hapū, sharing his incredible depth of knowledge and passion for our local history and whakapapa. His kōrero brought the whenua to life and deepened our appreciation for those who came before us.



Our heartfelt thanks also go to our beloved Kui, Rita Rukuwai, who has been a constant guiding light — not only throughout this noho, but in all things Māori within our kura. Her wisdom, mana, and aroha continue to inspire and support us all.

We also want to acknowledge our amazing parent supporters, whose tautoko made this noho possible. A very special mention goes to Colleen Tuuta, who arrived early to prepare breakfast and who has been unwavering in her support for all that we do. Her generosity and commitment were felt by all and helped make the noho truly special.

Alongside the learning and reflection, the noho was filled with moments of laughter, connection, and shared experiences. Delicious kai, warm kōrero, and whakawhanaungatanga helped strengthen the bonds between us all, creating memories that we will carry with us for years to come. We are looking forward to the next noho already!

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who contributed to this special experience. It was a beautiful expression of learning, connection, and pride in our culture.

**Whaea Kelly Jennings**



# Openly Engage with Community

## School Board Elections



### School Board Elections

We received 8 nominations to fill the 5 parent rep places we have on the school board. Therefore an election will take place to fill these.

You should have received an email from Schooled Election Pilot (our Returning Officer for parent elections), with voting papers, along with the candidate details.

*The timeline for next steps are:*

Election Day	Wednesday 10 September
Close poll	Election Day 4pm
Count votes and declare results	Tuesday 16 September
New Board takes Office	Wednesday 17 September

## Faith in Action

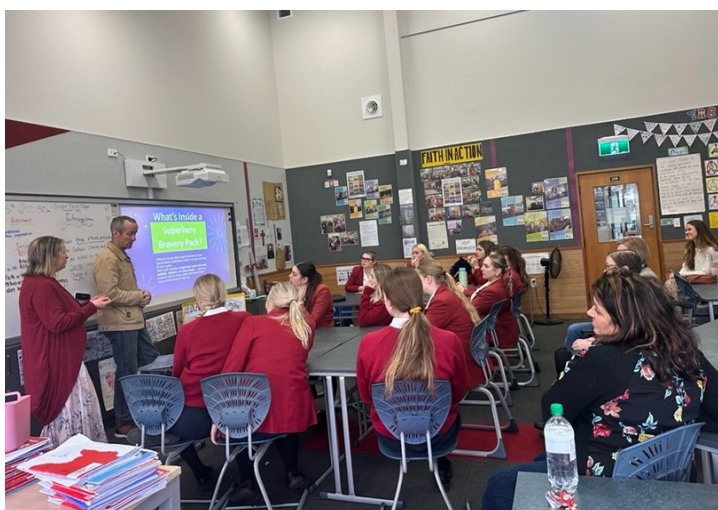
Faith In Action had the absolute pleasure to learn about Gabby's story and talk about the impact of her beautiful legacy with Sarah and Roly, Gabby's parents. They also launched our new project - making Bravery Boxes for small children about to undergo surgery in hospitals throughout New Zealand.

Faith In Action got stuck in and put together 60 Superhero Bravery Packs in record time. These packs will go straight into the hands of brave little heroes at Taranaki Base Hospital.

A very special part of the day was Faith In Action proudly donated a \$1,000 cheque they had raised from the recent Year 7/8 social! This incredible donation will fund 100 Bravery Packs for tamariki waiting for surgery.

**Sheree Rangiwahia**

Faith in Action Teacher





# Openly Engage with Community

## Duke of Edinburgh

On a cool Sunday 20 July, seven Year 12 students, Ms Ashton and Mr McA (and Kevin Whio) were dropped off in Eastern Taranaki beyond Makahu School by Mr Haylock so we could head into the bush on the Matemateaonga Track. The team needed to complete their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Adventurous Activity requiring two nights in the wilderness.

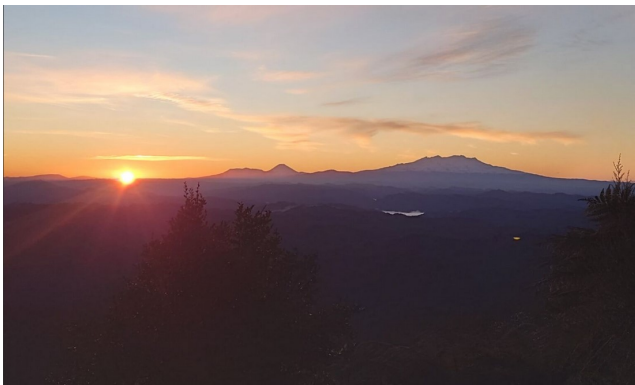
Day one was a steady 2 hr walk to Omaru Hut, an 8 bunk single room facility with resident outside goat and kid that were keen to make friends with all.

Day two and everyone headed further east along the Matemateaonga range on a 13.3km trek towards Pouri Hut.



Stopping at the 8.6km point, packs were left on the main track while the team climbed 1.5 hrs return to the 732m summit of Whakaihuwaka (made like the prow of the canoe) Mt Humphries. From the top of this trig point we all got magnificent unobstructed views of the snow capped Taranaki Maunga, Tongariro, Ngaruhoe and Ruapehu as well as sweeping views of the Whanganui National Park. Heading off from the main track again, the team got to the 12 bunk Pouri Hut just on dark at around 5:30pm. A pretty cool evening at Pouri as firelighting was unsuccessful with wet scraps of wood.

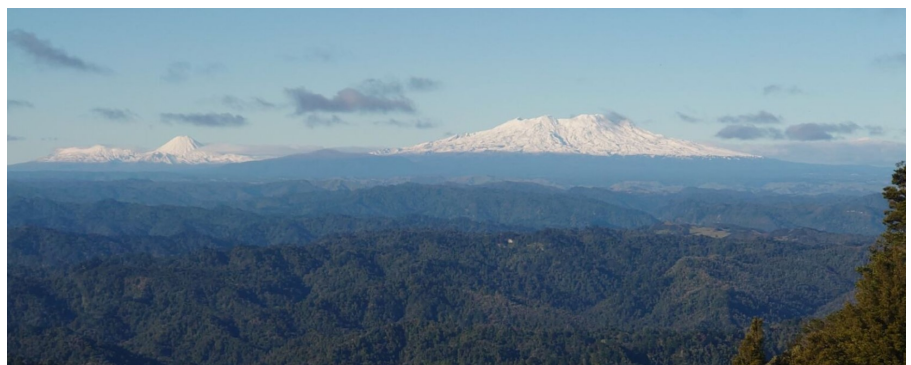
Day 3 and we were treated to amazing views of Tongariro National Park as the sun rose on a frosty Tuesday morning. Once good to go we started the big 19km march back along the Matemateaonga Track towards Omaru Hut and our pickup point on Kohi Saddle east of Makahu. Mr Haylock met us between Kohi and Omaru as we headed along the track and after jogging off to check out Omaru Hut, returned to accompany all to our School Van.



Ms Ashton and I would really like to highlight what a great group we had the pleasure to spend considerable time with July 20 - 22 in the Matemateaonga.

The Team all interacted positively with great support for each other and Heather and I. Fantastic!

**Andrew McAllister, Y7 Teacher**



# Strengthen Ako and Poutama

## Science Fair

### 2025 ELEMENTAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

Again this year, our ākonga have excelled in the Science & Technology Fair. There were dozens of entries in all categories, and 14 girls have won awards. They are:

**Sienna Asi, Amber Cayley, Isabella Kwong, Frankie Lamb** in Year 11-13

**Laura Balsom, Nancy Chen, Sophia Guo, Avisha Jurawan** in Year 10

**Millie Oxenham, Eliza Scott** in Year 9

**Charlotte Geary** in Year 8

**Daisy Fowler, Marcela Gerente, Jaime Webber** in Year 7



There will be a full record of their achievements in the school magazine, in this newsletter I would like to showcase our senior students who won prestigious special prizes:



**Sienna Asi**

Third in scientific investigation, Mason Charitable Trust Scholarship, OMV prize for projects based on research, data and analysis.



**Amber Cayley**

Fonterra prize for best project reflecting rural Taranaki, Labwarehouse Ltd premier prize for project involving New Zealand flora and fauna.



**Frankie Lamb**

GNS prize for a geology project, Taranaki Geological Society prize for best geology project, Beca prize for creative projects that “make everyday better”.

Big thanks to all staff and whānau who encouraged and supported our entrants this year!

*Photo credits: Sandra Antill Photography*

**John McLellan**

Science Teacher

## Music

A huge Congratulations to Year 11 student **Frankie Lamb** for recently being awarded a place in the NZ National Secondary Schools Development Brass Band.

Frankie will be spending a week with the band in Wellington in the September holidays, developing her skills and rehearsing with the band. The week concludes with a Concert (which will be well worth attending if anyone happens to be in Wellington in the middle of the holidays!)

**Raewyn Hunter**, Music Teacher





# Strengthen Ako and Poutama

## Premier Netball

On Saturday 26th July, the SHGC Premier Netball Team competed in the Premier 2 Grand Final against Naumai. In a thrilling and hard-fought match, we came away with a 49–48 victory, sealed by a game-winning penalty shot from Abi Nelson in the final moments. The atmosphere was incredible, with the stands packed and the majority of the stadium proudly backing us girls in red.

This win marks a special moment for our team—not only does it secure our promotion into the Premier 1 Grade for the 2026 season, but it also provides an unforgettable finish for our seven Year 13 players in their final season together. It's the first time SHGC has been in Premier 1 since 2012, making this achievement even more meaningful for our team and the wider school community.

A huge thank you to our incredible coaches, Che Tamati and assistant coach Gina Briggs, for guiding us through this journey. It's been an honour to captain this team alongside Vice Captain Stella Rae.

We now turn our focus to the Lower North Island Secondary Schools Netball Tournament as we continue to represent SHGC with pride.

**Alyssa Seed** (Captain) and **Stella Rae** (Vice Captain)



Thank you to everyone who came out to support the team — your cheers made all the difference!

*MVP of the Final: Sahara Cameron*

Her outstanding performance earned her the well-deserved MVP title!

The team represented **SHGC** with pride and passion. What a way to finish the season!

**“Te Hunga Hikoi i roto i te Tūmanako”**

**“Pilgrims of Hope”**

# Nurture Hauora



## Stay connected with our Sports News!

Catch up on all the latest updates, results, and highlights from our school's sporting achievements on our **Sports Facebook page!**

Here are just a few of the exciting stories we've covered recently:

- NPPA Year 7 & 8 Volleyball Tournament
- NZ Rugby High Performance Camp
- Representative Netball
- Showjumping
- Netball Umpire
- North Island Cross Country Champs
- Representative Hockey
- Representative Badminton
- TRFU Club Rugby Awards
- Netball Coaching Milestone
- New Hockey Uniforms
- NZSS Swimming Champs
- TSSSA Gymnastics
- Get2Go Adventure Racing
- Rogaine
- NZSS Squash Champs



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### Upcoming Tournaments

Stay tuned as our teams and athletes head off to compete in these exciting events:

#### **NZSS Winter Tournament Week**

*23rd–31st August*

- Premier Netball
- 1st XI Hockey
- Senior A Basketball
- Badminton
- Equestrian

#### **AIMS Games**

*31st August–5th September*

- Netball 8A
- Hockey Int A
- Football
- Hip Hop
- Swimming
- Surfing
- Cross Country
- Rock Climbing
- BMX
- Gymnastics