

Houghton Valley School Home and School Association Annual General Meeting and May Meeting

Monday 8 May 2023
7.30pm School and Zoom

MINUTES

Quorum requires minimum 2 officers and 7 members.

1. **Apologies:** Nicola du Toit, Emily Faith, Erena Hema, Jo Bishop, Michelle Podmore, Natalie Kegan.
2. **Present:** Flic Morris, Ronja Ievers, Luke Cartmell-Gollan, John Wooton, Miriam Gaynor, Ian Vanstone, Anna Barlow, Ana Henderson, Seb Bishop, Olly Townend, AD Sanders, Fenella Rich.
3. **Previous Minutes** from AGM 18th May 2022 were reviewed and considered a true record of the meeting; nominated by Anna Barlow, seconded by Ronja Ievers.
4. **Chairperson's Report** from 2022-23 was presented by Flic Morris.

What a fabulous year of re-connection it has been since our last AGM which we hosted in a hybrid-meeting style. Everyone was excited to look ahead to a time when we could offer more opportunities to come together, and this was our focus for the year.

It takes a village, and we would like to acknowledge all of the interest, time, efforts, baking, serving, sausage-turning, the "I can help" offers, and all smiles that have contributed to building the HVS community this past year. Every little bit helps make us stronger.

We really value working alongside the school to make activities fun for everyone. It's hard to measure community spirit, but here's a reminder of some of the projects we, the school community, have collectively worked on this past year:

Matariki celebrations hākari/feast (Term 2, 2022): H&S provided burgers and bangers for the school community gathered to welcome the Matariki cluster back to the dawn horizon.

Quiz Night at the Pines (Term 3, 2022): This fun social event for the adult-aged school community has continued to be a winter tradition at The Pines. While the

focus of this evening is on community-building, the approximately \$2,800 it raised was welcomed too.

Disco (Term 3, 2022): We couldn't wait to hit the sparkly dance floor with you all in the school hall and munch on all the delicious baking.

Calendar Art (Term 4, 2022): Christmas presents for the extended family are sorted with your child's art on calendars, cards, etc, resulting in \$708 of funds and invaluable art for the wall.

Houghton Valley School Fair (Term 4, 2022)

The pinnacle of the Home and School calendar as a school-wide celebration for our tamariki and community. Yes, it rained, however, seeing everyone working together warmed all the soggy hearts. "I'm singing in the rain.." Raised funds: \$12,334

Whānau reps for each class established (Term 1, 2023)

A system for keeping parents connected and informed of class events, hang-outs, and welcoming new families.

Welcome picnic sausage sizzle (Term 1, 2023)

On that beautiful Friday evening in summer, we gathered as a school community on the field for a picnic dinner. Sausages supplied by Home & School. It was an excellent opportunity to reconnect after the summer break and introduce ourselves to some new faces.

Whakatūwhera breakfast (Term 1, 2023)

A very special opening of the waharoa, pou and pakiwaitara (gateway, pillars and stories) at the entrance to the school. Thanks to all those who donated, served, and feasted at the breakfast afterwards.

Bake Sales (aiming for 2 a term): The return of the recurring bake sales and buddying up classes tuakana/teina, older/younger has offered opportunities for classes to mix, and 2023's new location, has created a more relaxed atmosphere. Altogether these raised a whopping \$2,792 in 2022. Additionally, Feb's bake sale raised over \$800 for Omahu School in Hastings, one of the schools that was badly affected by weather events in the Hawke's Bay

Some of these events were fundraising, which has provided the following for our tamariki: Bike track & bike maintenance, Flying fox maintenance & bark, Year 5&6 Camp Transport, Year 6 Leaving books, Kai for events. We always welcome ideas of what other fun things we can help bring to the school too.

Haere rā to our outgoing officer roles, secretary Megan Laking, Treasurer Dougal Wylie, and officer (esp. for the fair) Sarah Wylie. We are all so grateful for their

many years of dedication to the school community and they have really made a difference.

Ngā mihi nui:

-To our school community - for all the contributions, little and large, that you were able to offer to sustain our HVS community.

-To HVS kaimahi, staff - for their continuous support for the children and their families.

-To the tamariki ātaahua, gorgeous kids - for bringing us all together.

This year, we will continue to focus on bringing us together, and also to raise the profile of Home and School within the school community. We look forward to more connections made by all our contributions. And a sunny fair day.

- 5. Treasurer's Report** from 2022-23 was distributed by Luke Cartmell-Gollan and discussed. Flic Morris moved that the financial records be accepted as a true record, seconded by John Wooton.

Luke noted that we earned a Gross Profit of \$22,204 last year.

We donated \$7,776 to the Board of Trustees, which is 85% of the 2022 Gross Profit, and spent \$3,505 of the funds Home and School keeps for general donations (15% annually). Due to the significant underspend in 2022, there is still \$2,627 of Home and School funds being carried over.

This year the school donation will be \$18,873.89 which is an increase from 2022.

The total available funds that Home and School has available to put towards Projects and Donations is \$5,957.

6. Election of Officers

6.1 Co-Chair: nomination received for Ronja Ievers from Anna Barlow seconded by Ian Vanstone. Elected.

6.2 Co-Chair: nomination received for Flic Morris from Luke Cartmell-Gollan seconded by Fenella Rich. Elected.

6.3 Treasurer: nomination received for Luke Cartmell-Gollan from Ian Vanstone, seconded by Ana Henderson. Elected

6.4 Secretary: nomination received for Ian Vanstone from Anna Barlow, seconded by Olly Townend. Elected.

7. General Business; focus on events for the rest of the school year

Seb Bishop gave a update on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Highlights

- The Board appreciates the work of H&S, its role in building community spirit, and its contribution to school finances.
- The school is in good shape, with good fundamentals, teachers, and leadership.
- As is the case with other local schools, the school roll has plateaued (at around 170). For instance, because young families struggle to afford to live in the area. Whereas areas like Kapiti are experiencing growth in school rolls.
- The school was awarded a rating of zero in the new Equity Index (which replaced the decile system). This puts pressure on the HVS budget and makes the school more reliant on H&S fundraising and school fees.
- The ongoing building work remains a priority. The aim is to get this completed, noting that the work makes things tough for teachers.
- Later in the year, the Board will be reviewing the school's strategic plan for the next three years. This review will include engaging the community for input. The Board are keen to work with H&S on this.
- The Board meets once per month. All whānau are welcome to attend. Next meeting is the 22nd of May.

Miriam Gaynor gave a school and pedagogy update

Highlights:

- It's term 2, so the tamariki are well settled in classes and getting stuck in.
- The inquiry is focusing on "What is an artist?" For instance, 'lose parts' (sticks, rocks, etc) will be used to sculpt answers the question, "What is an artist?" at the start and end of term which will help show the maturation of the children's views on artistry..
- The RNZ Ballet came to visit.
- Cross country is next week.
- The school is again registered for art splash - with an HVS choir and senior dance group involved.
- Preparation for Matariki night has begun. There will be a showcase of arts.
- The school will be doing Pink Shirt Day on 19th May to help affirm positive behaviour. The school will be working with Inside Out to help facilitate a Rainbow Whānau Hui.
- The teacher-only day on 24th April focused on the curriculum refresh. This continues the shift from individualistic to community-based learning outcomes and viewpoints.
- Another "helping your child read" session is coming in Week 4.

John Wooton gave an Acting Principal update

Highlights:

- John gave some great feedback on the lovely feel to the community, and the warm, friendly, safe classroom engagement. He mentioned that the staff and parents are positively engaged.
- John has started two ukulele groups.

- The teachers are highly involved in the major focus for term and involved in after school events.
- Building work update: The demolition is 90% complete. The new drainage install is 60% complete. The start of the new timber framing is 80% complete. Aluminium windows are signed off and being made. The roof design has been finalised.

Anna Barlow gave a School Fair update

Highlights:

- The fair will be on a Saturday this year (28th October).
- Scheduling of the day has been done in sync with other local schools and communities
- The fair committee's first meeting is on Sun 21st May 2:30pm.
- All key roles are filled: Anna logistics, Carlie Comms, Nicola volunteers, Flic food.
- The Board is keen to be involved.

There was a discussion on other events and other business

Highlights:

- Movie nights were suggested as a potential event ? At a local cinema or even in a classroom or the hall.
- It was suggested that the kids could write a question for the quiz in term 3.
- Two bake sales are planned for this term.
- A reminder to parents that they are encouraged to be in a class WhatsApp group.
- A suggestion to invest in improvements to the chicken house.
- A suggestion to invest in musical instruments.
- A suggestion to invest in subsidising the newly designed HVS t-shirts

8. Next AGM - May 2024 - TBC

Flic Morris

Chairperson Houghton Valley Home and School Association